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on life after Ronaldo

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trail-blazing with Arsenal

KOEMAN
on why Ajax are back

FERNANDO TORRES
on being Spain's boy wonder

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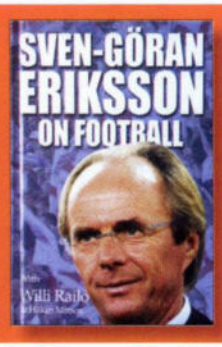

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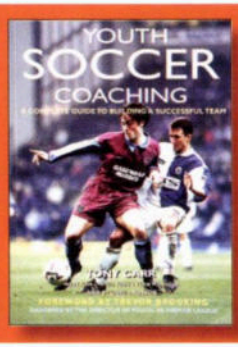

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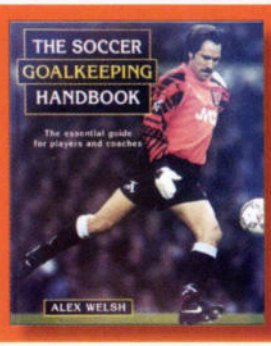

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Jan Bangsbo

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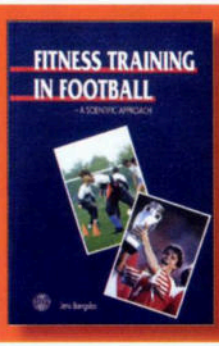

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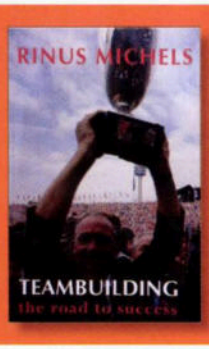

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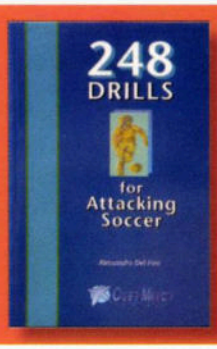
R0794 - £11.99



COACHING SOCCER

Bert van Lingen

This book is used throughout Holland as the foundation for coaching soccer. It is the handbook that accompanies all Dutch Football Association Coaching Courses. The emphasis is on the creation of optimal learning situations for young soccer players. Chapters include: Reading the Game, Technique in Soccer, 4v4, 7v7, Goalkeeper Training and Soccer Training as Conditioning.

R0154 - £11.99

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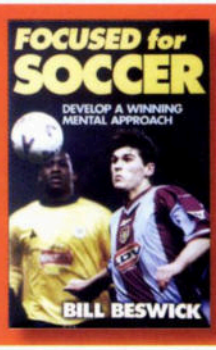
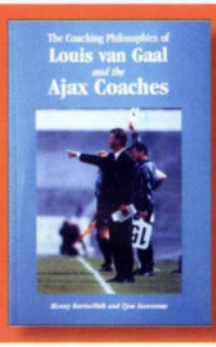


THE COACHING PHILOSOPHIES OF LOUIS VAN GAAL & THE AJAX COACHES

Louis van Gaal, Frans Hoek, youth coach Co Adriaanse and fitness coach Bobby Haarms discuss their training methods in this superb book full of creative ideas which any coach will find very useful.

R0175 - £11.99



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This unique coaching book, written by USA Women's World Cup Team Assistant Coach Lauren Gregg, draws on more than a decade of experience developing elite soccer players to define and explain the process of becoming a champion

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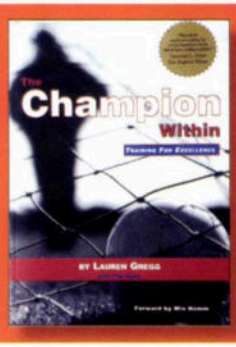

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November 2002

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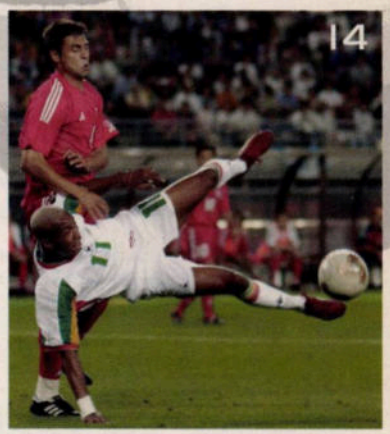
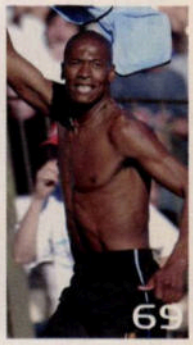




THE 2002-03 SEASON is barely two months old, and already the Champions League finalists are a foregone conclusion – depending on what language newspaper you read. For the Spanish press, Real Madrid look unstoppable, and after Ronaldo's astonishing debut against Alaves, who can blame them? The English papers have been reaching for the superlatives to describe Arsenal's early-season form, even though many of the records broken by the English champions relate to the Premier League – all 10 years of it. Meanwhile, in Italy, they have been heaping praise on Milan, and in particular the goalscoring feats of Filippo Inzaghi.

But what price none of the above three teams participating in the Final at Old Trafford next May? This time last year, Deportivo La Coruna were Europe's in-form side, on a seemingly unstoppable path to the Final. Yet they fell apart in the quarter-finals when reunited with Manchester United. And who predicted that Bayer Leverkusen, of all teams, would do so well? Ah, the beauty of hindsight!

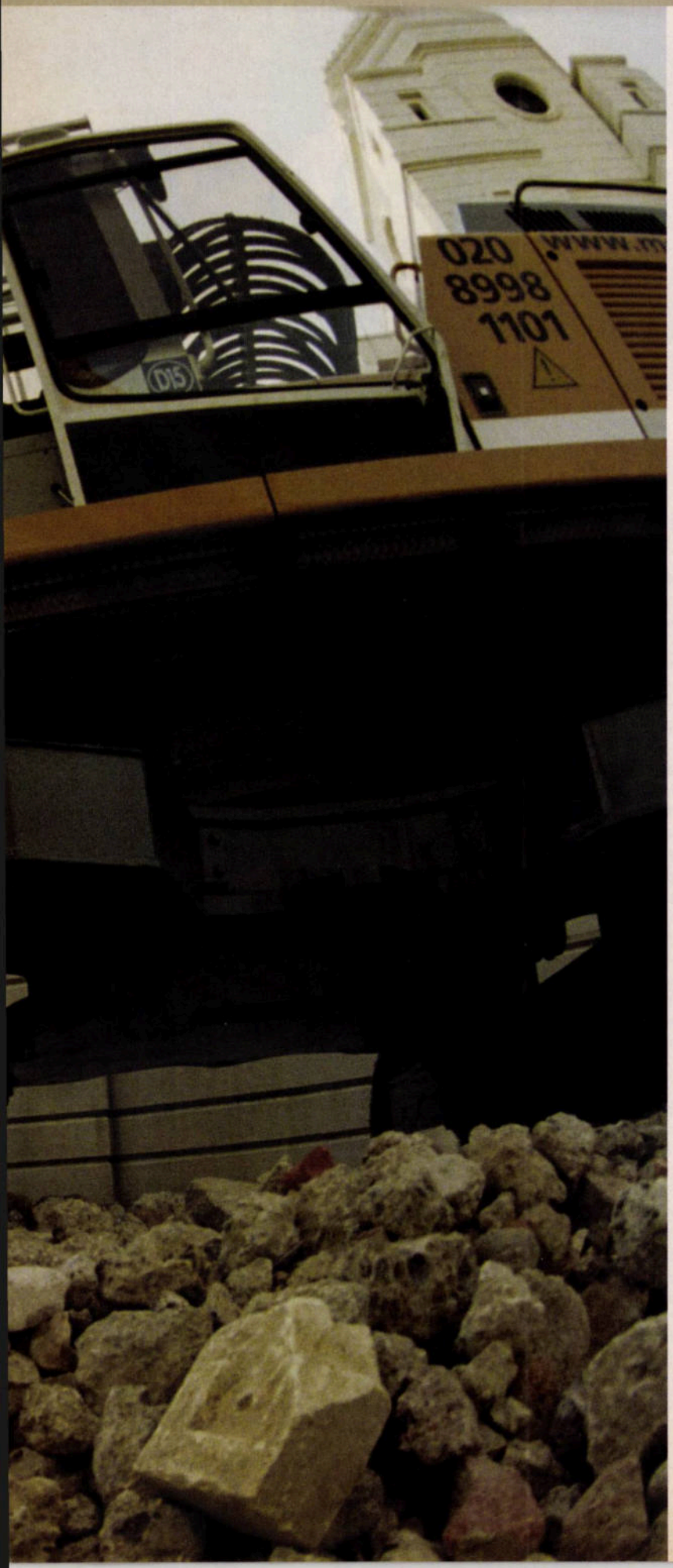
It may be early days, but we have already seen enough attacking football in the first few weeks of the season to suggest that whoever makes it through to the Final will have done so by entertaining us. The World Cup – already a fading memory! – featured many great stories but little quality football. Yet this season's Champions League is shaping up to provide both in abundance.

Lest we forget, the *World Soccer* awards – the oldest and most established of their kind – are with us again. Your vote, as ever, could make all the difference.

Gavin Hamilton, Editor (gavin_hamilton@ipcmedia.com)

Goodbye to all that...

AFTER SIX YEARS of political infighting and spiralling costs, work has finally begun on the redevelopment of Wembley stadium. On Monday, September 30, the bulldozers moved in to begin the demolition of Wembley's roof and Twin Towers. Work on the new stadium, the central feature of which will be a 'victory arch', is expected to be finished by 2006. The total cost is estimated to exceed £750million. The bulk of this (£426m) will be met by a loan from German bank Westdeutsche Landesbank, with the remaining costs being shared by the Football Association and the government.



ESM

EUROPEAN SPORTS MAGAZINES

SEPTEMBER 2002

TEAM OF THE MONTH

Buffon (Juventus, 2 votes); Puyol (Barcelona, 2), Ivan Helguera (Real Madrid, 6), Chivu (Ajax, 3), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid, 2); Wiltord (Arsenal, 4), Ballack (Bayern Munich, 5), Valeron (Deportivo La Coruna, 3); Del Piero (Juventus, 6), Inzaghi (Milan, 8), Makaay (Deportivo La Coruna, 7)

HOW THEY VOTED

A BOLA (POR)

Casillas (Real Madrid); Michel Salgado (Real Madrid), Ivan Helguera (Real Madrid), Maldini (Milan), Silvestre (Manchester United); Valeron (Deportivo La Coruna), Rui Costa (Milan), Cambiasso (Real Madrid); Van Nistelrooy (Manchester United), Makaay (Deportivo La Coruna), Inzaghi (Milan)

DON BALON (SPA)

Cavallero (Celta Vigo); Michel Salgado (Real Madrid), Hofland (PSV), Mexes (Auxerre), Cole (Arsenal); Del Piero (Juventus), Gilberto Silva (Arsenal), Marcos Assuncao (Betis), Luis Enrique (Barcelona); Inzaghi (Milan), Makaay (Deportivo La Coruna)

FOOT (BLG)

Gregorini (Nice); Campbell (Arsenal), Mexes (Auxerre), Ivan Helguera (Real Madrid); Luis Enrique (Barcelona), Valeron (Deportivo La Coruna), Ballack (Bayern Munich), Wiltord (Arsenal); Del Piero (Juventus), Inzaghi (Milan), Makaay (Deportivo La Coruna)

GAZZETTA DELLO SPORT (ITA)

Buffon (Juventus); Michel Salgado (Real Madrid), Chivu (Ajax), Ivan Helguera (Real Madrid), Riise (Liverpool); Ballack (Bayern Munich), Vieira (Arsenal), Del Piero (Juventus), Cambiasso (Real Madrid); Inzaghi (Milan), Makaay (Deportivo La Coruna)

KICKER (GER)

Jentzsch (1860 Munich); Puyol (Barcelona), Nesta (Milan), Ivan Helguera (Real Madrid), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid); Wiltord (Arsenal), Nedved (Juventus), Del Piero (Juventus), Guti (Real Madrid); Makaay (Deportivo La Coruna), Inzaghi (Milan)

SPORT EXPRESS (RUS)

Robinson (Leeds); Nesta (Milan), Campbell (Arsenal), Ivan Helguera (Real Madrid), Armand (Nantes); Wiltord (Arsenal), Seedorf (Milan), Ballack (Bayern Munich), Luis Enrique (Barcelona); Makaay (Deportivo La Coruna), Inzaghi (Milan)

VOETBAL INTERNATIONAL (HOL)

Buffon (Juventus); Puyol (Barcelona), Ivan Helguera (Real Madrid), Chivu (Ajax), Maldini (Milan); Ballack (Bayern Munich), Valeron (Deportivo La Coruna), Ono (Feyenoord); Del Piero (Juventus), Makaay (Deportivo La Coruna), Inzaghi (Milan)

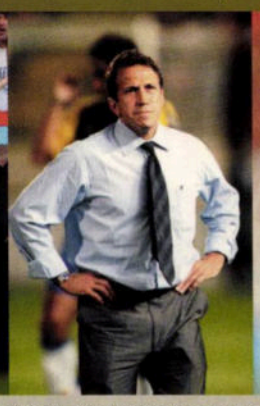
WORLD SOCCER (UK)

Lehmann (Borussia Dortmund); Cobos (Nice), Chivu (Ajax), Kaladze (Milan), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid); Wiltord (Arsenal), Baraja (Valencia), Ballack (Bayern Munich), Inamoto (Fulham); Del Piero (Juventus), Inzaghi (Milan)

The month in pictures

● 08/09/02...Klaus Toppmoller agrees a new contract to stay at Bayer Leverkusen

● 09/09/02...Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger defends Patrick Vieira after the midfielder was controversially sent off against Chelsea



● 12/09/02...Victor Munoz is sacked as coach of Spanish side Villarreal

● 13/09/02...Controversial Ecuadorean referee Byron Moreno is suspended for 20 matches

FIRST PERSON Hernan Crespo

'Forget Ronaldo, Inter have everything we need to be successful'

Hungry striker...Hernan Crespo

TAKING OVER from Ronaldo is a challenge but it's not one I worry about. Ronaldo is a great player but he made a rod for his own back. For instance, a human thing, he did not even stop to say goodbye to his team-mates here before he was off to Madrid.

He wanted to play for the best team in the world. That was his judgment. I'm happy his departure has given me the chance to join Inter. His choice, my good fortune. He said he would never leave Inter and he did. I hope to play out my career here – and I mean it.

When I was playing in Argentina I scored 20 goals a season, twice as many as players like Gabriel Batistuta and Abel Balbo were scoring in Italy. But they were picked ahead of me for the national team. When I asked them why, they said it was because they were playing in a better class of football and I needed to come to Italy if I wanted to compete.

So that's what I did.

But if I had to choose between winning Serie A or the Champions League I would choose the Champions League. You see, I started playing organised football with River Plate in Buenos Aires when I was just six years old, and the last game I played for them was the Final of the Libertadores Cup, the South American equivalent of the Champions League. We played against America of Colombia, we won, and I scored two goals in front of a capacity 80,000 crowd in our own stadium. It was a fantastic experience. If I can repeat that in Europe, it would be a dream come true.

Italian clubs have failed badly in the Champions League in recent years because the mentality here is still too defensive. They have a strange attitude to creative players when you consider that the only way to win games is to create and score goals.

Look at the national team. I don't understand why it's considered too much of a risk to play Francesco Totti and Alessandro Del Piero together. Look at all the great players who have quit Italian football: Veron, Zidane, Henry, Kluivert. That should have set alarm bells ringing.

It's good to play to your strengths, but the modern game demands more than a tight defence. I don't agree with people who say only the result matters. You have to play positive football. You don't win consistently otherwise – and Italian teams haven't been winning consistently in the Champions League since Milan and Juventus six or seven years ago.

What we can do at Inter this season remains to be seen. You can have the greatest players in the world but if you don't win anything then something is wrong.

Parma had a terrific squad when we won the UEFA Cup, Italian Cup and Supercup. My next team, Lazio, just lacked a little bit of luck to make the difference.

People questioned whether I could work up front with Christian Vieri at Inter, but the proof is already there. One of our first games together was against Rosenborg in the Champions League and I scored both our goals. We'd hardly trained together but good players have no difficulty understanding one another on the pitch.

If that's how we started, think how we mean to go on. I have been asked about Vieri as if people think we are rivals. We're not. We're team-mates. If we are not fit or lose form, we have other brilliant forwards such as Alvaro Recoba, Mohammed Kallon and Nicola Ventola.

'We have more hunger than Milan...we haven't won Serie A for 13 years. It's our turn'

There's plenty of opposition to keep us sharp. Coming here you can't miss all the fuss about our city rivals, Milan. OK, they've signed Rivaldo and Alessandro Nesta from my old club Lazio. But, man for man through the squad, they are no better than Inter.

We have our own strengths. We have more pace, we hold the ball better and we have more hunger. Inter have everything you need to be successful. We haven't won Serie A for 13 years. It's our turn.

● 13/09/02...Louis Van Gaal is under fire after Barcelona's Cup defeat by Novelda ● 14/09/02...Harry Kewell's header gives Leeds victory over Man United ● 14/09/02...The delayed Serie A season kicks off with a 1-0 win for Inter over Torino, while champions Juventus beat Atalanta 3-0

Notes & quotes

"I don't have any hobbies. I have my family. I stay at home. I know only Totteridge, London Colney and Highbury."
According to Arsene Wenger, London comprises the suburb where he lives, Arsenal's training ground and stadium.

"We can only hope God really is a Bavarian."
Bayern Munich striker Giovane Elber on his team's bleak Champions League prospects following home defeats by Deportivo La Coruna and Milan.

Living in hope...Giovane Elber

"Big stars are almost always easy to coach. The problems usually come with the less gifted ones, who think they are better than they actually are."
PSV Eindhoven coach Guus Hiddink on the problem of keeping all his squad happy.

"I dedicate this goal to those who have been saying River have no leader."
River Plate starlet Andres D'Alessandro takes advantage of a goal against Independiente to settle a score with the critics.

Talent scout BRAZIL

Tim Vickery on the most promising young players in the Brazilian national championship

DIEGO
(28.02.85, Santos)
Here comes the Prince. Wears Pele's old No10 shirt without a care in the world. His rolling gait, balance, strength on the ball, vision and range of passing make him look like a junior version of Zinedine Zidane.

GIL
(13.09.80, Corinthians)
Waspish striker who puts the devil in his team's attack. Operates on the left wing, from where he can both score and create. Although his right foot needs improvement, he can also cause havoc cutting into the penalty area.

KLEBER
(01.04.80, Corinthians)
Now in his fourth season in Corinthians' starting line-up, this lithe left-back hits his crosses with a wonderful curl. Played two internationals early this year and will soon be pushing Roberto Carlos for Brazil's No 6 shirt.

MAICON
(26.07.81, Cruzeiro)
Tall right-back with the speed and strength to frequently make it to the byline. Still raw and not the greatest defensively, but passes well down the line and charges forward with the power of a young Carlos Alberto.

ROBINHO
(25.01.84, Santos)
Another of the Santos kids with a bright future. Wiry, whippet-like striker who attacks from either flank. Has ability in both feet, meaning that the defender can never be sure which way he will go.

DAGOBERTO
(22.03.83, Atletico Paranaense)
Slightly built striker with great pace and neat finishing skills. A right-footed version of former Flamengo favourite Savio. Learning how to receive the ball with his back to goal.

FELIPE MELLO
(26.08.83, Flamengo)
Powerful midfielder who is also being pressed into service at right-back. Has good lungs, is strong in possession and strikes the ball with true venom. Has done well to maintain his progress amid Flamengo's ever-turbulent atmosphere.

ADRIANO
(26.10.84, Coritiba)
Attacking left-back making a big impression in his first campaign with this season's surprise team. His pace is important on the counter-attack, and a good right foot gives him the option of cutting inside.

JUSSIE
(19.09.83, Cruzeiro)
Having to take a back seat after Cruzeiro responded to a poor start by going for experience. But much is expected from this striker, who has electric pace, tight dribbling skills and a whippy shot in either foot.

RICARDO OLIVEIRA
(06.05.80, Portuguesa)
Rangy, elegant striker who made the breakthrough in last year's championship. Now looks a more complete player after learning how to drop deeper to become more involved in the build-up.

Going places...Kleber is tipped as the successor to Roberto Carlos

The month in pictures

● 16/09/02...Robert Waseige is sacked as coach of Standard Liege

● 17/09/02...Genk host AEK on the opening night of the Champions League first group phase

● 17/09/02...Liverpool leave the field after being outplayed and beaten 2-0 in Valencia

● 18/09/02...Feyenoord and Juventus draw 1-1 in Rotterdam in their opening Champions League group match

OPINION

Jim Holden

20/20 vision: the changing face of the world game

TWENTY years ago this month *World Soccer* kindly invited me on to these pages with a hot little scoop about a dazzling and then unknown teenage striker from Denmark by the name of Michael Laudrup. He didn't stay anonymous for long.

Laudrup is still making headlines, now a fledgling manager with Brondby in the Danish Superliga and enduring a torrid first season in the dug-out.

While soccer has witnessed vast changes during the past two decades, some things have not changed much at all; certainly not the absurd expectations heaped on coaches and managers at every level. Many of the names remain the same too.

Back in November 1982, the first headline story in *World Soccer* was about England claiming the European Under-21 title with victory over West Germany. Terry Venables was in charge, and has seemed the potential saviour of English football ever since. Berti Vogts was castigated for German defeat, not for a moment supposing he might one day face the apoplectic outrage of Scotland for failing to beat the Faroe Islands.

By the way, none of that young England side became world-class internationals. Rudi Voller prospered from the German team – all the way to the World Cup Final as a manager.

England's early exit in the 1982 World Cup was still a major talking point. Steve Coppell reflected: "We were efficient, we were competent, we were competitive, but we were nothing special. The one thing we didn't have was someone who was really inventive, capable of lifting us above efficient mediocrity."

He also spoke about the issue of player fatigue and how too many club games had crushed World Cup hopes, adding: "We play more matches than other countries. Can players then be asked to go into the searing heat and perform at their very best?" The same analysis neatly sums up England 20 years on at the 2002 World Cup. Do we learn nothing?

Flicking with happy nostalgia through *World Soccer* of November 1982 I came across a UEFA Cup result: Arsenal 2 Moscow Spartak 5. I had been at a spellbound Highbury watching the majestic Muscovites. Before the match we knew it would be special as they indulged in an almost balletic warm-up routine, gliding up and down the pitch with one-touch passes. What if they did that in the game, we wondered? The scoreline tells its own story.

Twenty years on it is Arsene Wenger's Arsenal who now treat Highbury to such nights of technical virtuosity. The team are outstanding; it's just a pity more of the players aren't English as they make what should be a credible challenge in the Champions League and the Premiership.

Changes in format to the European Cup and the old Football League symbolise so much of the soccer revolution, inspired by high finance off the field and high speed on it. Among the teams in England's top flight in November 1982 were Watford, Stoke, Luton, Brighton, Swansea, Norwich and Notts County. So some things cannot remain the same; poor Swansea were 92nd and miserably last among professional clubs at time of writing.

My particular beat for *World Soccer* has been the rise of Danish football, and its proud contribution to the global game. The wonderful Dynamite team of the 1980s played scintillating football under Sepp Piontek (now manager of the world's youngest soccer nation, Greenland) and introduced the concept of wing-backs.

Still the best match I have seen is Denmark beating the Soviet Union 4-2 in a World Cup qualifier at the old Copenhagen Idraetsparken in the high summer of 1985. Laudrup scored twice, as did Preben Elkjaer. There were 45 shots on target and the Soviet manager, Valerii Lobanovskyi, said his team had never, and would never, play better. He simply could not believe they had lost.

Don't just take my word for it. This match is the only one former Denmark and Liverpool midfielder Jan Molby possesses on video from his splendid career – and he was an unused substitute.

The Danes won Euro 92 without Michael Laudrup because he had fallen out, not with the manager, but younger brother Brian. But the Laudrups made up in time to inspire Denmark to the quarter-finals of the 1998 World Cup, then retired to leave the field free for new heroes to emerge.

That is another happy aspect of world soccer which never changes, the thrill of watching young talent emerge then develop into greatness.

It's an endless fascination.

Touching the heights...the Denmark v USSR World Cup qualifier in 1985

● 19/09/02...Celtic beat Lithuania's Suduva 8-1 in their UEFA Cup first round, first leg

● 20/09/02...FIFA bans Chievo's Brazilian Eriberto for playing under a false identity

● 22/09/02...Modena celebrate their shock 2-1 win over Roma at the Stadio Olimpico

DIARY

'VITA MADE MY LIFE HELL'

DUTCH coach Martin Koopman has quit the Democratic Republic of Congo's 'glamour' side AS Vita Club just seven weeks after taking the job.

Koopman did not receive a cent for his work and his hotel accommodation was not paid by the club either. He was denied meals by the hotel as they pressed for the bill to be paid and then locked him out of his room.

"Luckily, I had my passport in my tog bag, otherwise I would never have got out of there," said Koopman. "But I had to leave everything else in the hotel."

LOVE MATCH FOR ZENGA

NATIONAL BUCHAREST may not be playing sterile *catenaccio* football, but coach Walter Zenga is at least living up to other Italian stereotypes. His love life is hitting the headlines less than a month after he moved to Romania.

Zenga, 42, is stepping out with Raluca Sandu, the 22-year-old daughter of Romanian federation president Mircea Sandu. Raluca is a professional tennis player more famous for her relationship with Spanish pro Carlos Moya than for any sporting achievement.

"This is the happiest thing that has happened to me for a while," says former Italy keeper Zenga, who previously had a two-year relationship with model Hoara Borselli.

"He is the sweetest man I have ever known," says Raluca, revealing that she calls him 'Coach'.

Her father is not so happy, though. "He's too old," he moans. "But Raluca will have what she wants."

Whole Lauterer trouble...Ciriaco Sforza

FIRST RULE OF LIBYAN FOOTBALL: PICK GADDAFI

LIBYA fired and then within a week re-hired their Italian coach Francesco Scoglio after a reported spat with Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi's son Saad, who runs the country's football association.

The Libyan federation said it had sacked the Italian, who previously worked in neighbouring Tunisia, because of poor results, even though Libya had just won their first encounter in the African Nations Cup qualifiers, 3-2 over DR Congo.

But Scoglio told *Corriere dello Sport* he was fired because he refused to pick Saad, who also plays for the Al Ittihad club.

Scoglio added: "I would never have let him play, even for a minute. As a footballer he's worthless."

The spat seemed settled, however, when Gaddafi was included in the squad that set off for Italy ahead of their second Nations Cup qualifying match in Swaziland.

CIRI'S CONTRACT WHAMMY

WHOEVER said 'Never go back' had a point. Nothing has gone right for Switzerland midfielder Ciriaco Sforza since beginning a third spell at Kaiserslautern this summer.

Not only was 'Ciri' swiftly dropped by new Lauterer coach Eric Gerets for a string of sub-standard performances, but he also found himself at the eye of the storm after it was revealed that outgoing Kaiserslautern chairman Jurgen Friedrich had inserted a clause into Sforza's contract which guaranteed him the job of director of sport at the end of his playing career, in 2004 or 2005.

Friedrich's successor, the former Basle president Rene C Jaggi, now faces a dilemma. Cancelling their contract with the straight-talking, rebellious Sforza could cost them around £650,000 in compensation.

Notes & quotes

"They used to say that the 1960s Inter team coached by [Helenio] Herrera wasn't spectacular, but ultimately they became the most entertaining side to watch."

Internazionale president Massimo Moratti responds to criticism that the current Inter team are boring, attempting a revisionist view of Inter history in the process.

"If Sensi doesn't go, we will make sure Roma get banned from the Stadio Olimpico."

A disgruntled Roma fan talks dubious strategy after his team lose three in a row against Bologna, Real Madrid and Modena.

What can I do?...Jupp Heynckes

"I would like to see how Barcelona and Bayern Munich coped if they could pick only Catalans or Bavarians."

Under-fire Athletic Bilbao coach Jupp Heynckes blames his club's Basque-only selection policy for their poor start to the season.

The month in pictures

● 23/09/02...Deportivo's Juan Carlos Valeron is ruled out for two months with a broken fibula

● 24/09/02...Luis Enrique celebrates his 100th goal for Barcelona in a 2-0 Champions League win at Galatasaray

● 24/09/02...Sergio Cragnotti offers to step down as Lazio president

● 25/09/02...Dortmund hold out to beat Auxerre 2-1 in the Champions League

● 26/09/0 unveils the

In a muddle by matchday three

The convoluted Champions League regulations continue to baffle the media. Group F provided a classic example on the night of matchday three when Man United defeated Olympiakos 4-0 and Bayer Leverkusen won 2-0 away to Maccabi Haifa.

Those results left United clear on nine points and the rest all on three. Many European newspapers, working on the generally accepted goal difference system, published the group table with Maccabi (5-7) second, Olympiakos (6-9) third and Leverkusen (5-8) fourth.

Other papers, with someone thinking brightly that UEFA puts mutual results as the first divider, worked out that, since Leverkusen had just won away to Maccabi then they should go second, with Maccabi third and Olympiakos last.

Both solutions were wrong.

When three teams are level on points you have to construct a mini-league for all their mutual results. On this basis, Maccabi and Olympiakos were joint first on points and goal difference. Neither side had scored an away goal in the mutual games – the next criterion – so Maccabi were properly second on the strength of their overall goal difference, the fourth criterion, with Olympiakos third.

So there you are. At least the UEFA website had it right.

Strange days ahead for Stange

German coach Bernd Stange has accepted an offer to coach the national team of Iraq. Stange, 54, the last national coach of the former East Germany and of various Bundesliga clubs since, flew to Baghdad to sign a four-year contract.

"I received the offer in June and hesitated for a long time," said Stange. "But after consulting FIFA and the German foreign ministry I decided to say yes. I haven't coached for more than a year and, at my age, you don't receive so many offers. Hopefully, with Iraq, I now have a chance of managing a team at the 2006 World Cup finals in Germany."

Asked about the complexities of his situation in view of a possible war on Iraq, he said: "I am a football coach not a politician. I take the Olympic ideal: sport is the best ambassador of peace."

– from Kicker

All change in Italy

All three of Italy's daily sports papers have appointed new editors this year. *Gazzetta dello Sport* (Milan-based) led the way with Pietro Calabrese succeeding long-serving Candido Cannavo, who still writes regular leader columns. *Corriere dello Sport* (Rome) then replaced Italo Cucci with Xavier Jacobelli from *Tuttosport* (Turin), which duly filled the Jacobelli gap by pinching Giancarlo Padovan – from *Corriere*.

La Gazzetta dello Sport

SUPERPIPPO E ALE INFIAMMANO LA CHAMPIONS

Magie!

Due doppiette lanciano Milan e Juve Inzaghi espugna Monaco: 2-1 al Bayern Del Piero liquida il Newcastle: 2-0

CALCIO PARADISO

Crespo rientra «Contro il Lione i punti serenità»

Operazione Genk La Roma ritrova l'arma Batistuta

Con la prova tv un turno a Tudor due a Tacchinardi

ORIGINALS

Morire a 8

Changing times...the new-look Gazzetta dello Sport

Already the fruits of the *Gazzetta* change are obvious from a more modern layout, clearly displayed match info panels and the use of Page Two for new stories and interviews instead of the tedious TV and radio 'furniture'.

One last change remains in the future: to comply formally with old laws preventing seven-day publication, *Gazzetta* has always appeared on Sunday under the title of 'La Gazzetta Sportiva'. How soon before honesty breaks into the masthead?

Ronaldo's virtual own goal

Amazing. The 'Fenomeno' is promoting his new identity as a player of Real Madrid with the statue of Neptune.

This picture, both surrealist and in bad taste, was out there all day yesterday on Ronaldo's official website. The site's editors ultimately realised the problem but it still took them the best part of 24 hours to do anything about it. The montage showed Ronaldo heading the ball in front of the Neptune fountain and listing Madrid's fixtures in September. Underneath was a headline:

...otball Association chief executive Adam Crozier ...ng-awaited plans to redevelop Wembley stadium

● 27/09/02...Inter coach Hector Cuper hits back at claims from Ronaldo that he is a liar

● 28/09/02...Michael Owen ends his barren spell with a hat-trick against Manchester City

"Are you ready for a new start?" Unfortunately, of course, Neptune is the 'god' of Atletico.

"We know about it, we're fixing it," said his agent, Alexandre Martins, who blamed the Italian producers of the website who did not understand the crucial difference between one Madrid fountain and another.

The fountain at the Plaza Cibeles, of course, is the one where [Real] Madrid's players traditionally celebrate their triumphs.

– from Marca

Moving towards Madrid

Interesting new wind blowing through Spanish weekly *Don Balon*. The Barcelona-based magazine has always appeared firmly in the Catalan corner of the Spanish media boxing ring (though, for directorial reasons, more Espanyol than FC Barcelona).

Suddenly, *Don Balon* is taking a far friendlier view of people and events at Real Madrid. First came an article describing Madrid as "the second club in Catalonia" because of the significant fan base there. Next came a lengthy paeon in praise of Madrid president Florentino Perez.

As director Rogelio Rengel noted: "Every year you have to reassess your position to make sure you give your readers what they want."

Going into bat for Cooper

Senior figures in FIFA are urging president Sepp Blatter to award compensation to Keith Cooper, who was unceremoniously sacked as communications director of football's world governing body after the World Cup.

Cooper had his contract terminated as part of the fallout from the bitter presidential election won by Blatter in May. Several other long-serving FIFA officials also lost their jobs, as did general secretary Michel Zen-Ruffinen.

Unlike Zen-Ruffinen and several other officials in the past, however, Cooper was not given any generous compensation package and merely had his contract paid up to the end of the year.

A popular and widely respected figure who was renowned for remaining independent of FIFA's tangled politics, Cooper has won the support of several influential members of FIFA's executive committee. They have approached Blatter for both Cooper and several other officials who have been fired to be adequately compensated.

One FIFA member said: "The view has been passed on to Mr Blatter that Keith Cooper and several other employees who had spent many years at FIFA should be adequately compensated."

Raw deal...Keith Cooper

In the past, Blatter has personally intervened to give employees a large pay-off.

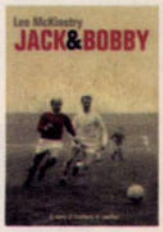
One such case was that of Flavio Battaini, who was sacked as FIFA marketing director by Zen-Ruffinen. Blatter gave him a reported pay-off of £600,000 when he was entitled to less than half that amount.

– Martin Ziegler, The Press Association

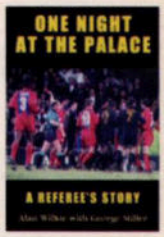
Books

White Storm: 100 Years of Real Madrid
by Phil Ball
(Mainstream, £15.99)
A timely release in Real Madrid's centenary year; the first English-language history of the club is well worth the wait. The author of the celebrated *Morbo* digs deep beneath the hype to uncover some fascinating tales.

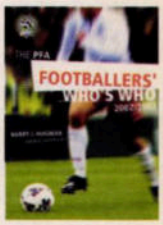
Jack & Bobby
by Leo McKinstry
(CollinsWillow, £18.99)
Absorbing and well-researched account of the complex relationship between the Charlton brothers.



One Night at the Palace
by Alan Wilkie with George Miller
(Parrs Wood Press, £16.95)
Do-it-yourself biog from former ref Wilkie, who is unpromisingly billed as "the first man to referee a Wembley final with a female assistant," as well as the man who famously sent off Eric Cantona at Selhurst Park.



The PFA Footballers' Who's Who
editor Barry J Hugman
(Lennard Queen Anne Press, £16.99)
A new, more user-friendly size for what is now a well-established reference tome. But still a little on the steep side, pricewise.



Sven Goran Eriksson
by Joe Lovejoy
(CollinsWillow, £17.99)
The *Sunday Times* man is first with what is expected to be many books on Eriksson's England. A more detailed-than-expected delve into Sven's early years is followed by a nuts-and-bolts account of England's World Cup. Plus the revelation from agent Athole Still that "Sven can't resist a bird".

Going Down: Football in Crisis
by Simon Banks
(Mainstream, £15.99)
A well-researched account of English football's financial revolution. Essential reading for club chairmen and agents.

The month in pictures

● 01/10/02...Milan beat Bayern 2-1 in Munich to maintain their impressive 100 per cent record in Champions League Group G

● 02/10/02...Sidney Govou scores for Lyon as they surprise Internazionale to win 2-1 at San Siro in the Champions League

● 03/10/02...EX-USA coach Steve Sampson takes charge of Costa Rica

● 06/10/02...Ronaldo makes his debut for Real Madrid

GLOBAL VIEW

Paul Gardner

Argentina's latest stars: how long have they got?

I'VE BEEN greatly entertained lately watching a couple of players who – up until maybe six months ago – I'd never heard of. Carlos Tevez of Boca Juniors and Andres Silvera of Independiente. Skilful goalscorers, exciting dribblers, both gifted with that magical Argentinian close control.

The similarities end there. Tevez is 18, short and stocky, a tempestuous, muscular bull of a player with great acceleration, whose strength makes it mighty difficult for opponents to separate him from the ball. Silvera is 25, tall and slender, a quick-witted striker whose sinuous movements evade, rather than resist, tackles. What I'm wondering is how much longer will Tevez be playing for Boca, Silvera for Independiente? For both, sudden success has aroused the interest of European clubs.

Argentinian soccer has put up with this plundering by Europe since the 1930s, but never on this scale, never with this rapacious rapidity. Consider: it is only a few months since Barcelona carried off Juan Roman Riquelme, a huge favourite with the Boca fans. To replace him, Boca called up Tevez – an inexperienced teenager to make the *hinchada* forget about Riquelme.

Fat chance...and yet, it has happened. In no time at all Tevez has become the darling of the Boca fans. And in not much more time he will surely be following Riquelme to Europe.

Things shouldn't work that way, of course. Boca fans deserve better. So do those of Independiente, who know Lazio have been watching Silvera, currently the Argentinian League's top scorer.

Market forces are at work, however, and they will not be denied. Independiente have declared Silvera "non-transferable", but Argentinian fans have been listening to that sort of defiance for decades. It means nothing. In 1999 River Plate fans staged protests at games against the possible sale of Pablo Aimar and Javier Saviola, just as Boca fans did in Riquelme's case. The club directors made sympathetic noises – but all three players have now gone.

River Plate's situation crystallises the dilemma. The club is widely acknowledged to have one of the best youth development programmes in the world. But is it producing players for River Plate – or for selling to European clubs? A look at the current River team dramatises the problem: three young players, midfielders Alejandro Dominguez and Martin Demichelis (both 21) and striker Fernando Cavenaghi (19), are all reportedly under European observation. But the big attraction is 21-year-old playmaker Andres D'Alessandro – the 'new Maradona'. At the start of the year, River president Jose Maria Aguilar made the usual pre-emptive apologies to fans: "We shall try to hold on to D'Alessandro for as long as possible. However, the limit is imposed by the rules of capitalism."

'When Argentinian players go, they are really gone, 5,000 miles away – most home fans will probably never see them in the flesh again'

With the Argentinian economy in disarray, those rules will continue for the foreseeable future to ordain a swelling tide of emigrating footballers. Which is good for the selling clubs and the players – both of whom end up much better off financially – and presumably good for the buying clubs.

Every so often, there are complaints from Europe that the import of players is killing their domestic game and should be restricted. But I have never heard any European club express any concern about what this wholesale importing of players might be doing to the *Argentinian* game. For fans to see their favourite players repeatedly whisked away cannot be satisfying. And when these players go, they are really gone, 5,000 miles away – most fans will probably never see them in the flesh again.

This depressing situation surely must have dire consequences sooner or later. With all its best players gone, what is left for Argentinian soccer? "Today's First Division is equivalent to yesterday's Second Division," is former Independiente star Ricardo Bochini's gloomy assessment, "Our best players go quickly to Europe, the clubs have to call up Second Division players, so the games are bad." Yet the miracle is that, for the moment at least, the games are not bad. Far from it. My TV gives me live games from England, Germany, Spain, Italy, Mexico, Brazil and Holland. For consistently high-level skills and thrills, I rate the Argentinian First Division as good as any of those other leagues.

The supply of talented youngsters shows no sign of drying up. Maybe European money will dry up first – those "rules of capitalism" have always been notoriously difficult to pin down.

A less acceptable maybe is that Argentinian youth programmes will start producing a new type of player, a Europeanised youngster, tailor-made for the European market. It's not as far-fetched as it sounds. San Lorenzo's 36-year-old striker Alberto Acosta recently complained that Argentinian clubs don't really want veteran players because there is no chance of selling them to Europe. "It's better to give a chance to a kid of 17 or 18 years, who is worth more in the future, for whom a deal with a foreign club is possible," he said.

Acosta, of course, has had his time in Europe, with Sporting Lisbon and Toulouse. He will not be going back. But it surely won't be long before Argentinian soccer says goodbye to D'Alessandro, Cavenaghi, Silvera, Tevez *et al*.

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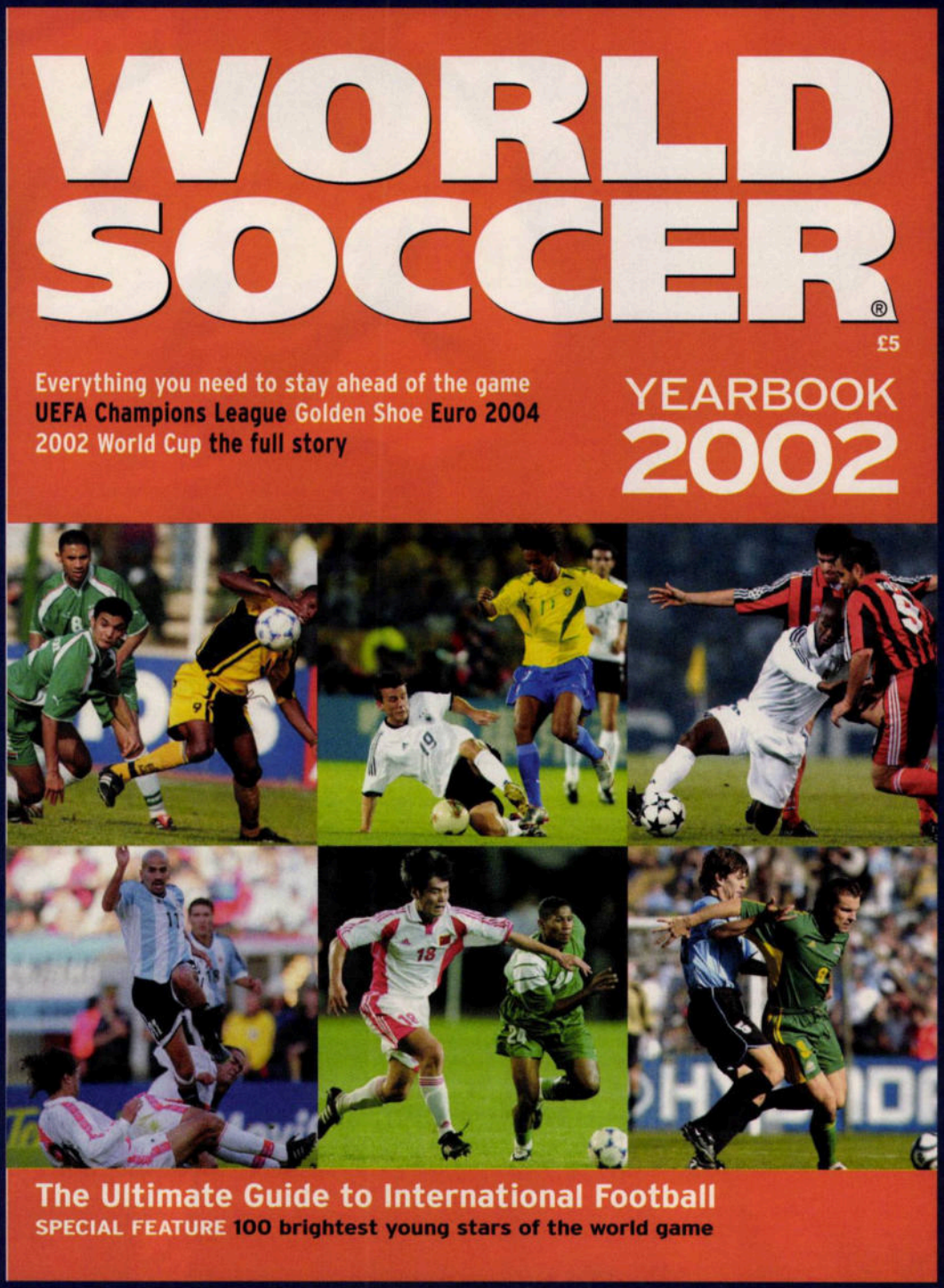

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WORLD SOCCER AWARDS 2002

WHO will follow Michael Owen, Liverpool and Gerard Houllier as the winners of the 2002 World Soccer awards?

Last year, Liverpool made a clean sweep. Owen beat David Beckham and Raul to the World Player of the Year accolade, with Liverpool, Team of the Year, and Houllier, Manager of the Year, completing the set.

This year, the World Cup is likely to dominate the voting in all three categories. Owen faces a difficult task to repeat the feat of Michel Platini in 1985 and Ronaldo in 1997, the only two times when the reigning Player of the Year has retained the award.

Brazil's three Rs – Ronaldo, Rivaldo and Ronaldinho – were the star performers for the world champions, while Roberto Carlos joined a select group of players who have won the World Cup and European Cup in the same season. Oliver Kahn and Michael Ballack of Germany will undoubtedly gain votes for their performances in reaching the World Cup Final.

Zinedine Zidane's World Cup may have been blighted by injury, but his wonderful volley that won the Champions League for Real Madrid is bound to attract votes.

And what about El Hadji Diouf, the star of Senegal's march to the World Cup quarter-finals? Or South Korea's Ahn Jung-hwan, scorer of the golden goal that put paid to Italy's World Cup hopes.

For the team award, Brazil, as World Cup winners, and Real Madrid, European champions for the ninth time in their centenary year, are obvious contenders. But what about Bayer Leverkusen, who defied the odds to reach their first Champions League Final? Or those countries that punched above their weight at the World Cup: Turkey, Senegal, South Korea and the United States?

In the European leagues, Arsenal and Valencia won the championship in England and Spain respectively, while Chievo proved a thorn in the side of Serie A's big guns. Sao Caetano of Brazil performed a similar giantkilling act in South America's Libertadores Cup, only to be stopped by Paraguay's Olimpia in the Final.

The contenders for the Manager award are just as numerous. Brazil's Luiz Felipe Scolari is one of the strongest; others from the World Cup include Rudi Voller of Germany and South Korea's Guus Hiddink. At club level, there are Real Madrid's Vicente Del Bosque, Leverkusen's Klaus Toppmoller and Arsene Wenger of Arsenal to consider.

The decision, as ever, is yours. And you don't have to restrict your choice to the names mentioned here. Choose any player, any team, any manager.

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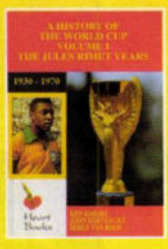

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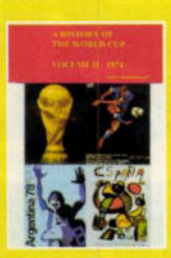

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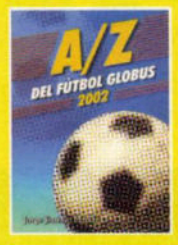

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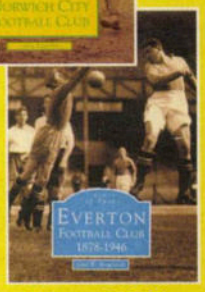

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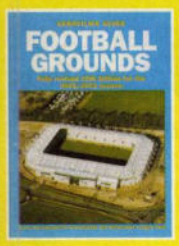

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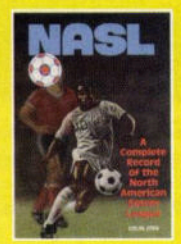

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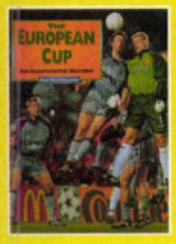

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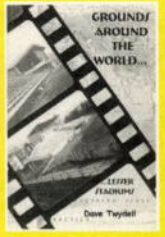

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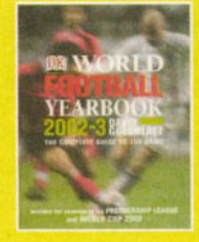

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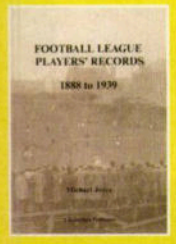

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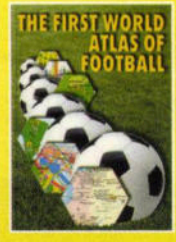

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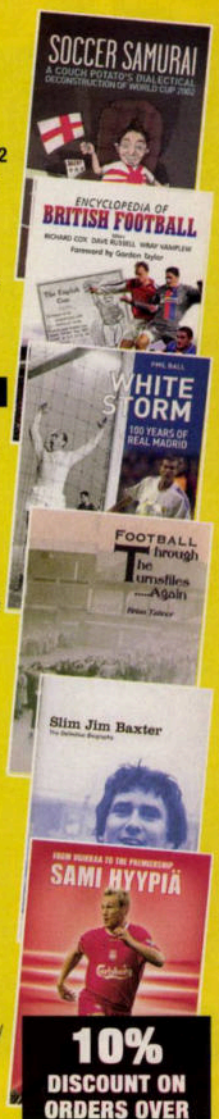

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Atletico Madrid

Home comforts...Atletico regularly attract 50,000 crowds to the impressive Vicente Calderon stadium

Back from hell

Sid Lowe in Madrid reports on Atletico's return to the Spanish top flight

WHEN Atletico Madrid were relegated at the end of the 1999-2000 season, president Jesus Gil made his now infamous claim that what awaited was *un anito en el infierno* – just one little year in hell.

The prediction was rather optimistic. A dreadful start to the following campaign left Atletico struggling to catch up, and they eventually finished fourth, suffering final-day heartache as victories for Sevilla, Betis and Tenerife extinguished any lingering hope of an immediate return.

Another year in hell beckoned, unthinkable for a club that had won nine Spanish League titles, nine Cups, the European Cup-winners Cup in 1962 and the World Club Cup in 1974 – and one whose previous Second Division appearance was back in 1934. Nor was success but a hazy recollection; Atletico did the Double in 1996.

With the *rojiblancos* (red and white fans) on his back and adamant that the same fate should not befall them again, Gil persuaded club legend Luis Aragones to return for a fourth spell as manager. Aragones, nicknamed *El Sabio de Hortaleza* – the wise man of Hortaleza, the district of Madrid where he was born – had just led Mallorca to their best finish and first Champions League appearance. But his Atletico needed him. Heartstrings pulled, Aragones turned his back on Europe, belying his insistence that he was "not a sentimental man".

"Turning to Luis Aragones paid off. He restored the team's pride and hunger"

Atletico lost top scorer Salva but brought in the spine of a new side, most notably Mono Burgos, Jose Antonio Garcia Calvo, Jose Maria Movilla and Diego Alonso. While keeper Burgos and inspirational centre-back Garcia Calvo shored up the defence, Movilla was Atletico's most impressive performer in the heart of midfield, and Alonso scored 22 goals. Turning to Aragones paid off. He restored the team's pride and hunger and, from mid-October, Atletico didn't surrender top spot.

As Garcia Calvo puts it: "No one better represents Atletico than Luis." An Atletico player for 10 years, the League's top scorer in 1969-70, Aragones was persuaded to become manager at 36 by president Vicente Calderon in 1974. "I didn't want the job," Aragones recalled, "but Calderon was insistent."

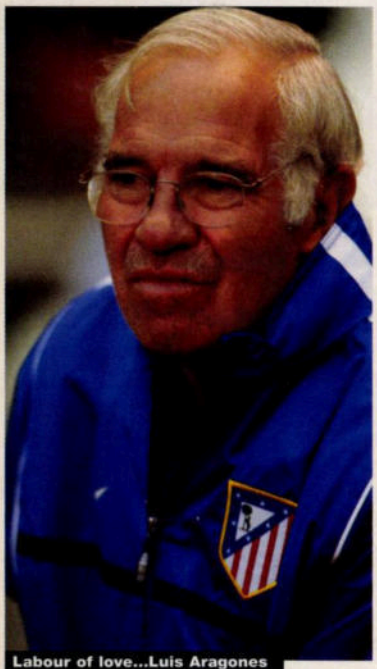
In his first season, Aragones led Atletico to the World Club Cup (they appeared as losing European Cup finalists after their conquerers, Bayern Munich, had withdrawn). He stayed until 1980, winning the Spanish Cup in 1976 and the League the following year. Now he is La Liga's most experienced manager, with over 700 games under his belt and 14 seasons at Atletico.

El Sabio is not merely experienced, he is also a unique character and Spain's most respected coach. His touchline rants at charges and opponents alike are legendary – he once lost his false teeth screaming at his players. Despite his 64 years, Aragones insists he is always learning, even from the fans. He once took an abusive supporter's

'advice', commenting: "I thought: 'Blimey, that guy's right.'"

With a few exceptions – Romario stands out – the men he has coached, impressed by his man-management and his hands-on approach, speak very highly of Aragones; new players invariably cite "learning from Luis" as a reason for signing. Even Samuel Eto'o, whom Aragones physically attacked when they were at Mallorca, received his one-time mentor with effusive hugs when they met a couple of weeks back. "Aragones," Eto'o said, "is like a father."

Aragones' latest 'son' is teenage prodigy Fernando Torres. Nicknamed *El Nino* (The Kid), the 18-year-old is yet to explode, but the signs are that he will this season. If he does, Aragones will get much of the credit, having personally overseen Torres' development. This included one much-televised training session during which he brutally man-marked the teenager, all the while screaming advice and instructions into his ears.


Labour of love...Luis Aragones

Aragones has also sought to prevent Torres believing his hype, especially in light of some disappointing performances and occasional displays of petulance. Barbed criticisms leaked to carefully selected members of the press, timely substitutions and bubble-bursting omissions from the side seem to have done the trick. There has been a radical change in Torres' attitude, and in Aragones' treatment of him. *El Nino* is now the first name on the teamsheet and, finally, he's playing like it.

Back in the top flight, few would accept mere survival. Not with Torres finding his form and 10 new signings keeping him company – including Demetrio Albertini, Javi Moreno, Cosmin Contra, Jose Mari (all from Milan), Emerson Moises Costa, Sergi and Jorge.

And all this on a relative shoestring £12.5 million. The power behind the purchases is sporting director Paulo Futre, a man, seemingly, with two trays on his desk – one marked 'wheeling'; the other 'dealing'. The secret, he says, "is boring people into submission. And I've invented a thousand ways to pay for players." Including, it seems, not paying at all: Atletico won't cough up for Moreno and Contra until 2003, while Esteban, Fabricio Coloccini, Albertini and Jose Mari came on loan.

Atletico have built an impressive squad, and it is now up to Aragones to mould them into a decent team. He is doing this with his favoured 4-2-3-1 formation, underpinned by Garcia Calvo, directed by Emerson and Albertini, and spearheaded by Torres, with either Fernando Correa or Moreno just in front as strikers, or Jorge as a creative *media-punta* behind.

As ever, the team will be superbly supported: 45,500 season-ticket holders, 5,000 of them aged under five, bare testimony to Atletico's extraordinary fan base. Last season they averaged 50,000 in the Second Division, trailing only Real Madrid and Barcelona, and there are plans to increase the 54,851 Vicente Calderon by a further 12,000.

With 2003 the club's 100th year, those long-suffering *rojiblancos* – having put up with the pomp and ceremony of Real Madrid's ubiquitous centenary – are looking forward to marking their 100th birthday with a flying return to 'heaven'.

Fact file

CLUB ATLETICO DE MADRID
Founded 1903
President Jesus Gil y Gil
Coach Luis Aragones
Stadium Vicente Calderon (54,851)
Honours Spanish League 1940, 1941, 1950, 1951, 1966, 1970, 1973, 1977, 1996; Spanish Cup 1960, 1961, 1965, 1972, 1976, 1985, 1991, 1992, 1996; European Cup-winners Cup 1962; World Club Cup 1974

JESUS GIL: from Marbella to Madrid, via the courts

FOR ALL THE attention lavished on Fernando Torres, or the 24 seasons that Luis Aragones has been at the club, one man more than any other looms large over Atletico Madrid.

That man is Jesus Gil y Gil, club president and ex-mayor of Marbella, the tubby businessman with a fondness for financial shenanigans, shooting his mouth off and firing football managers.

Having lived in a brothel to pay his way through university, Gil began business life in true wide-boy fashion – second-hand car dealing – before moving into construction. In 1969, his newest project collapsed, killing 58 people. It later emerged the building had been opened before the cement was dry and was built without the aid of an architect, a surveyor or proper plans. Gil was jailed, but granted clemency by General Franco.

In 1991, Gil became mayor of Marbella, leading his own party, the ever-modestly named Grupo Independiente Liberal (GIL). Forced to resign the mayorship earlier this year following allegations relating to the embezzlement of £17 million of council funds, Gil was jailed for four days to prevent him tampering with evidence.

That was just one of 80 court cases involving Gil over 12 years. Investigations have also focused on irregularities at Atletico, with Gil's shareholding frozen, a judicial administrator controlling the club's finances, and Paulo Futre admitting that he received £2.5m in backhanded, tax-free payments while a player at the club.

Gil protests his innocence, but the man who has publicly – and physically – attacked chairmen, politicians and referees hardly enjoys a blemish-free reputation. Nor, indeed, does anyone believe him when he declares Movilla "better than Zidane", or insists that he "wouldn't swap Torres for Ronaldo".

Not that Gil is always so complimentary about his players. When Atletico lost 2-1 in Las Palmas two years back, he declared: "I hope the plane crashes on the way back." His attitude towards managers is even worse. Gil goes through coaches like Joan Collins goes through husbands – 37 since 1987. With Luis Aragones, however, something has changed – Gil has actually stopped interfering. And that can only be good news for Atletico Madrid.

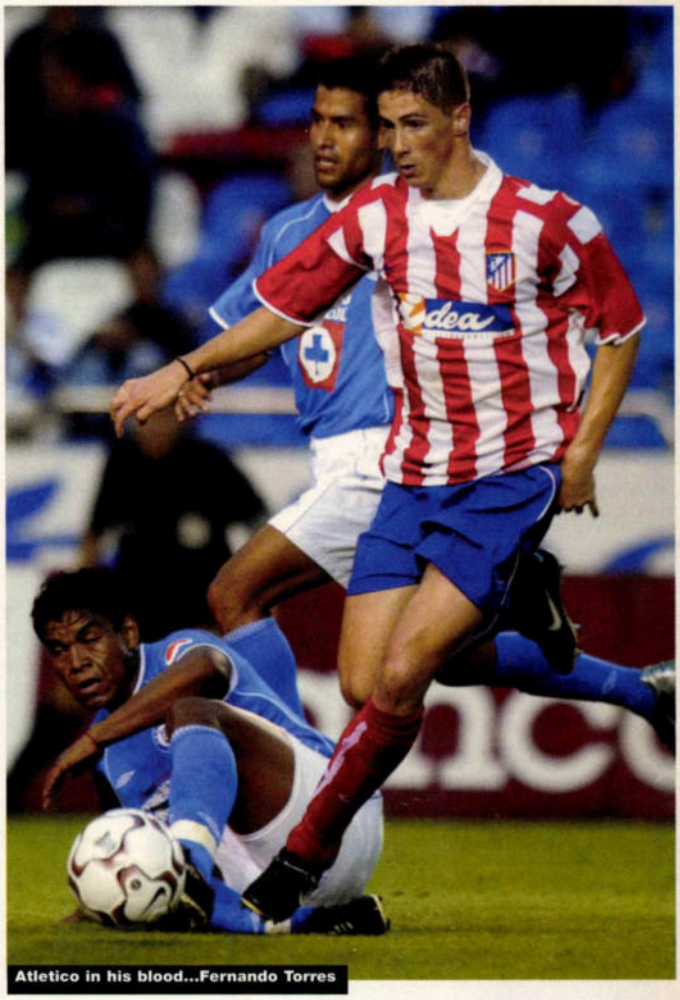
Sid Lowe

Mr Controversy...Jesus Gil

Atletico Madrid

'We're back with the big boys'

Teenage sensation Fernando Torres talks to Hernan Alvarez Macias


Atletico in his blood...Fernando Torres

WORLD SOCCER: Congratulations on winning the European Under-19 Championship. How did it feel to finish top scorer and be the star of the tournament?

FERNANDO TORRES: Well, it is my job to score goals. I scored four, there could have been more, but I had many chances that I did not take. It's the job of other players to give assists, and three out of my four goals were from assists. My team-mates did not make me feel like the hero. On the contrary, everyone was outstanding in his position.

Are you ready for the senior national team ?

I guess I am always ready for the national squad. It is the best thing that could ever happen to a footballer. The senior team is the only Spanish team I have not been in, and the new coach [former youth team boss Inaki Saez] knows me, so maybe it will be a bit easier. I don't know whether Euro 2004 will be a bit soon for me and perhaps the World Cup in 2006 is a more realistic target, but who knows? If they call me, I hope I will be ready.

Can the Raul generation reach the Final of a big tournament?

It is bound to happen some time. In Spain better young players are coming through every year and players like Raul are so consistent. The Under-21s are a good team, and I believe in four or five years Spain will be at the top of Europe. But having very good players does not guarantee titles – we have always had great national teams, yet when the big games came, it seems as if we did not have the confidence to win them.

What are the best three things about your game?

My style of playing is based mainly on pace, my ability to outrun defenders. I also like playing one-on-one, and I'm not too bad in the air.

What do you have to correct and improve?

Oh, many things – my positional sense, for instance. I am not like Raul; he does not seem to run for the whole match, but he is always in the right position to score. You can only get that ability through constant match practice.

You didn't appear to have any nerves when you made your debut for Atletico.

It's just the way I am. It all happened so quickly. I came back to Madrid from an Under-16 championship; in three days I was training with the first team and in the fourth I was playing a match. It all came so fast I did not realise it or have time to get nervous.

There was a rumour about a move to Valencia. How did you cope with all that?

I kept quiet because I knew that the move would never become a reality, even though the supporters did not know that. They only knew that something was signed [Jesus Gil used Torres as security on a loan from Valencia] and I might have joined Valencia. But I have stated quite clearly that I want to stay at this club.

Have you always been an Atletico fan?

Yes. I've been here eight years, since I was 10 years old. I stood with the ultras watching the matches for two years and I have friends there. Atletico are a different sort of club from the others. In the First Division the matches were not sold out, but they were when we were in the lower division. You cannot explain it, you have to live it. You have to have been coming to the stadium since you were a child to really understand what it feels like.

So, you would not play for Real Madrid?

I think not. It would be difficult for me to live here in Madrid if I did that. My family is here, my friends are here, I am treated very well at the club and because of that I want to stay here for ever.

Who was your hero as a player?

Everyone has to be himself. I try to be myself, but there are always players you can look up to. I never saw him play live, but some people gave me videos of Marco Van Basten.

Many people think you play like him.

I know, but I do not believe that. I hope some day I could play like Van Basten. I like to watch him playing because there are some things that I can copy. I also watch players with some of my characteristics, forwards like Thierry Henry or Andrii Shevchenko, and try to copy them.

Do you think that young Spanish players are underestimated?

No, we are appreciated, but sometimes the clubs feel they are taking too much of a risk throwing an 18-year-old into a big match in a crowded stadium. But when the players get that chance, they generally make the most of it. Jose Reyes, who was with me in the Under-19s, is always in the Sevilla starting line-up. He has already made a name for himself. Joaquin played at the World Cup after only two years in the Betis first team. However, coaches and club presidents still fear putting young players on the pitch.

Can Atletico recover the third place they once held in Spanish soccer's hierarchy?

Nowadays, Deportivo La Coruna and Valencia are in the place that Atletico had a few years ago, behind Real Madrid and Barcelona. But we want our place back, no doubt about it. I do not know if it will take one, two or three years to get there, but we will make it because Atletico deserve it. We came from the Second Division; we are in 21st place as Luis Aragones says. The important thing is that we are back among the big boys!

The Squad

THE COACH

Luis ARAGONES
Born 28.07.38. The grandfather of Spanish coaches, having notched a record 725 matches as a coach at the start of the 2002-03 season. A player with Getalfe, Plus Ultra, Recreativo, Hercules, Oviedo, Betis and Atletico. Previously coached Betis, Barcelona, Espanyol, Sevilla, Valencia, Oviedo and Mallorca. Now in his fourth spell at Atletico.

Spectacular...Burgos

GOALKEEPERS

German 'Mono' BURGOS (Arg)
16.04.69. Long-haired lead singer in his own heavy metal band, he has a taste for outrageous saves, heart-stopping penalty area dribbling and howling errors. Excellent positional sense and never less than spectacular.

ESTEBAN Suarez
27.06.75. Oviedo keeper brought in on loan, and was the first player Aragones requested when the coach rejoined the club. Solid, dependable and dominating. If he gets a decent run in the side an international call-up should not be too far away.

DEFENDERS

Lluis CARRERAS Ferrer
24.09.72. Left-back who can also play in the middle. Unlikely to figure prominently this season.

Fabricio COLOCCINI (Arg)
22.01.82. Frizzy-haired centre-back and a revelation at Alaves last year in one of the League's meanest defences. Tough, uncompromising and deadly at set-pieces, but yet to start for his new club.

Jose Antonio GARCIA CALVO
01.04.75. On-field leader at the heart of defence. Dependable player who started his career at Real Madrid but never really broke into the first team, playing just 16 times in three seasons. Moved to Valladolid in 1997 and from there to Atletico last season. One of five debutants for new Spain manager Inaki Saez in August.

Mirsad HIBIC (Bos)
11.10.73. Ball-playing central defender who nonetheless tends to get caught out by pacy strikers and is beatable in the air. First choice to partner Garcia Calvo.

Jorge OTERO
28.01.69. Tough, dependable and quick. Played on the left last season, but has made the right-back slot his own this term.

Santiago Denia Sanchez, SANTI
09.03.74. A member of the 1996 double-winning team, comfortable on the ball but far from quick. Unlikely to figure much.

Still going strong...Sergi

SERGI Barjuan
28.12.71. Barcelona legend who, despite age and a string of injuries, still has plenty to give. Atletico snapped him up on a free when Barça failed to offer him a new contract in the summer. Undisputed first choice at left-back.

MIDFIELDERS

Carlos AGUILERA
22.05.69. Captain and right-sided midfielder-defender. Not so quick these days but has a powerful shot.

Orchestrator...Albertini

Demetrio ALBERTINI (Ita)
23.08.71. Hugely experienced Italian international with 79 caps. An institution at Milan, with whom he won the European Cup in 1994, *Il metronomo* will dictate the pace from the middle of Aragones' new-look midfield.

Cosmin CONTRA (Rom)
15.12.75. Vice-captain of Romania, his brilliant performances at full-back for Alaves – particularly in the dramatic 2001 UEFA Cup Final defeat by Liverpool – led him to sign for Milan last summer. A year later he is back in Spain, where his attacking skills have persuaded Aragones to switch him to the right side of midfield.

Daniel da Cruz Carvalho, DANI (Por)
02.11.76. Creative midfielder with a penchant for flowery play and even more flowery shirts. Despite his undoubted class, he can be inconsistent. Often performs better as a game-turning supersub, a role he is likely to play this season.

EMERSON Moises Costa (Bra)
12.04.72. Forced to play second fiddle to Mauro Silva and Sergio at Deportivo last season, but has already made himself a fixture in Atletico's midfield. Powerful, dependable and with astonishing workrate, his main role will be to cover Albertini.

LUIS Javier GARCIA
24.06.78. Surprise signing from Barcelona B, but has impressed wide on the left with his pace and passing ability. Can also play behind the strikers and chips in with his fair share of goals.

Jose Maria MOVILLA
08.02.75. Shaven-headed powerhouse and Atletico's most impressive performer last year, but has – rather unluckily – lost out to Emerson and Albertini. Will play an important role as back-up to any of the midfield positions and has already proved his worth with a number of influential substitute appearances.

Txomin NAGORE
26.08.74. Unsung, reliable defensive midfielder who looks set to lose out to the new boys, despite playing 40 times last season – more than anyone else.

Jovan STANKOVIC (Yug)
04.03.71. Left-sided player hampered by lack of pace but capable of delivering deadly crosses, free-kicks and corners.

FORWARDS

Fernando CORREA (Uru)
06.01.74. A surviving member of the 1996 Double-winning squad (although he played only nine times), he looked set to miss out this season but has forced Aragones to sit up and take notice with some vital goals. Powerful finisher.

Needing a boost...Moreno

FERNANDO Jose TORRES Sanz
20.03.84. *El Nino* is Atletico's great hope. Despite his obvious talent, his performances – and his goalscoring record – haven't lived up to the hype. Yet, more mature, physically more developed and better focused than in previous seasons, this could be the year he takes off. An incorrigible diver, however.

Javier Moreno Varela, JAVI MORENO
10.09.74. Former Alaves striker who was delighted to return to Spain after his unhappy Serie A experience at Milan. Powerful, direct and strong in the air, he needs, above all, to rediscover his confidence.

JORGE Larena-Avellaneda Roig
29.09.81. The latest star from Las Palmas, signed for £3 million at the end of the summer. With quick feet, a nice touch and good vision, he will either play wide left or, more likely, make up the League's youngest strikeforce, playing just behind Torres.

JOSE MARI Romero Poyon
10.12.78. Back at Atletico after three years in Milan. Support striker, erratic and not one to enjoy the rough and tumble, but can be devastating on his day.

Low hurdles...Wiltord eludes a Birmingham defender on the opening day of the Premiership season

Sylvain WILTORD

Highbury's Sylvain lining

Nick Bidwell on the player who has finally found his feet at Arsenal – with devastating results

"OFTEN when kids talk to me they don't want to speak about my matches or Arsenal," says Sylvain Wiltord. "All they want to know is what sort of car I'm driving."

Such remarks reveal much about today's celebrity-obsessed world and the glamorous image of star players. But with France forward Wiltord hitting all the right notes for Arsenal this season, those same young fans might just be tempted to concentrate on the skills of their hero rather than the trappings of fame.

In a side that continues to go from strength to strength, Wiltord has been outstanding in recent weeks, tormenting defenders with his searing pace and skill on the ball, linking adroitly with attacking-third colleagues and starting the new campaign with six goals in as many domestic League games.

Since arriving at Highbury from Bordeaux two years ago for £13 million, Wiltord has more often than not been overshadowed by the more aesthetic attacking talents of Dennis Bergkamp, Robert Pires and Thierry Henry. No longer, though. The willing sidekick has become the main man and he was the obvious choice to be the first Premiership Player of the Month of 2002-03.

"Sylvain is a player whose good work is sometimes overlooked," says Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger. "Yet everyone here totally appreciates what he does. He scores goals, makes openings for others and works hard. He is making a big contribution, and I feel that he has the scope to offer us much more in the future."

Wiltord, whose winning goal at Manchester United last season clinched the Premiership title for Arsenal, has not always been a Highbury idol. Indeed, his Arsenal career came very close to ending in tears after a mere handful of months.

Initially, Wenger used him only sparingly, justifiably arguing that the distraction of a long and acrimonious transfer from Bordeaux had left Wiltord playing catch-up in the fitness stakes. However, the new boy was apparently not convinced by his coach's logic.

His frustration at being confined to the role of de luxe substitute was there for all to see. Complaints about the squad rotation system appeared on his personal website and he was late for a number of training sessions.

Tabloids began to compare his disenchantment with that of former Arsenal rebel without a cause Nicolas Anelka; fans wondered whether Wenger had made a rare mistake in the transfer market; and rumours circulated that the Gunners would cut their losses and offload him to Paris Saint-Germain.

Although Wenger did fine him for his inaccurate timekeeping, the Arsenal boss had no intention of giving up on his compatriot. "Even if his lateness is unacceptable, he does not have a bad attitude," said Wenger. "He needs time to adapt to the rhythm of the game in England. It takes six months to take everything on board."

And the manager was to be proved right. Aided in no small measure by his close friends and fellow Hampstead residents Pires, Henry and Patrick Vieira, Wiltord began to find his feet both on and off the pitch. Picked more regularly by Wenger, his performance levels have gradually improved, culminating in this season's explosion.

Certainly, Wenger knows how to get the best

●"Sylvain's good work is sometimes overlooked, yet everyone at Arsenal totally appreciates what he does"

from Wiltord. While he nominally has an attacking role stationed on the right or left side of midfield, he benefits from considerable freedom to roam, frequently changing flanks and popping up at the point of the attack too.

Such artistic licence was the key to Wiltord's success at Bordeaux – particularly in the 1998-99 season, when his 22 goals formed the bedrock of the team's French League title win. Yet at international level, his strengths have never been fully maximised. At the World Cup, France boss Roger Lemerre kept him in a straitjacket on the right side, while new national coach Jacques Santini is not renowned for his flexibility either.

In France's recent 2-1 Euro 2004 qualifying win in Cyprus, Santini handed Wiltord a role on the left flank with the instructions to keep wide and provide crosses for lone striker Djibril Cisse. But Wiltord is by nature an improviser, and it was no surprise when he surfaced in a central position to unleash a magnificent long-range winner.

"It was a great goal from Sylvain," said Santini. "I knew his confidence was high after his super start to the season at Arsenal, and I must always pick players who are in form.

"Wiltord was too withdrawn in the first 45 minutes, but we sorted out the problem, and he was our matchwinner in the second half."

Could it be that Santini is ready to see the light? Left, right or through the middle, the attacking instincts of Sylvain Wiltord need to be given free rein. Just ask Arsene Wenger.

Fact file

Club Arsenal (Eng)
Country France
Born May 10, 1974, in Neuilly sur Marne
Previous clubs Rennes, Deportivo La Coruna (Spa), Bordeaux
International debut February 1999, v England
International caps 43 (13 goals)
Honours European Championship 2000; French League 1999 (Bordeaux); English League 2002; FA Cup 2002

French polish...Wiltord takes on Borussia Dortmund keeper Jens Lehmann during Arsenal's 2-0 Champions League win

Philippe MEXES

Waiting for the call

Keir Radnedge on the most coveted young player in Europe, perhaps the world

THE question with Philippe Mexes is not whether, one day, he can be persuaded to leave Auxerre, but how soon and for how much.

Even though the 20-year-old is only just now breaking through at senior international level for France, he is the most coveted young player in Europe, perhaps the world. To some he is the new Beckenbauer, to others the new Zidane. The predictions about the prospects for his talent are almost nonsensical for one individual in a team game and one who plays for a modest French club, albeit the one with probably the finest youth development record in Western Europe.

Mexes is far from oblivious about the interest in him. "It's all very flattering. When I was away with the French national squad I got Marcel Desailly to tell me plenty about Italian football because he was there with Milan. But I don't think, at that level, there's much difference between the quality of football in Italy, Spain and England.

"It's more a matter of which club. Anyway, that's academic because I don't think Auxerre want to sell me yet. Besides, I want to become a regular choice in the French national team and to do that I need to be playing in the French League."

Fact file

Club Auxerre
Country France
Born March 30, 1982, in Toulouse

Foot in...Mexes wins possession against PSV

Mexes was born on March 30, 1982, in Toulouse, was picked up as a junior by the local club and could have signed as an apprentice for Monaco or Paris Saint-Germain. The fact he chose Auxerre says everything about the reputation and charisma of Guy Roux, the long-serving coach whose youth scheme turned Auxerre from minor league part-timers into Champions League contenders.

Mexes made his League debut at 17, in November 1999. The following season, however, he was thrust into the action from the start and has never been out of the team or the headlines since. Not that he and success were strangers.

As a youth player with Auxerre he won the national cup in 1995 and the French amateur championship in 1999. His reputation had spread so far, so quickly that Sir Alex Ferguson wanted to bring Mexes to Manchester United. But Mexes, a first-teamer already at Auxerre, discovered that at Old Trafford he would be just another bright young hopeful waiting somewhere in the wings.

Looking back, he says: "When I was 16 Ferguson invited me for a trial at Manchester and I went over to England. But then Guy Roux persuaded me I would be better off staying with Auxerre. Of course, now it would be a different story if I had an offer from United. Also, I understand United have a particularly good relationship with Auxerre."

Thus he duly returned to the French club and signed a contract that ties him theoretically until 2005 while he tries to develop a game and a style based on mixing the qualities of his heroes, Laurent Blanc and Alessandro Nesta.

"For me Nesta is the best defender in the world," says Mexes, "though my hero has always been Blanc. He plays in the same position and always tries to play skilful football. That's the way I want to be. It would be terrific to be considered his successor with France. I've never met him but I have one of his shirts – from when he was at Inter. The Inter directors knew I admired Blanc and sent me one of his shirts. Very kind of them. Just like Roma sent me shirts from Totti and Batistuta. But I don't keep shirts. I hand them over for charity auctions."

In the meantime the honours and achievements have kept piling up. In 2000 Mexes helped inspire France to win the European Under-18 youth crown, and he was voted Young Player of the Year by *France Football*. He was outstanding in France's run to the World Youth Cup quarter-finals in Argentina in 2001 and then again this May when France lost the European Under-21 Final only on penalties to the Czech Republic.

As for the future, Mexes keeps an open mind. For all the fun of the Champions League, the title target is domestic. He says: "I want to try to win the French League this season. We were third last season, after all. As for Europe, well five years ago Auxerre reached the quarter-finals of the Champions League so we have the potential to go that far in Europe. Also, this is football and surprises happen. Nantes beat Bayern Munich two years ago. Also, who would have expected Bayer Leverkusen to reach the Final last season?"

Finishing third in the French championship last season earned Auxerre accession to the Champions League, in which Mexes believes they have made "a reasonable start" for a young team with a lot to learn [they drew 0-0 at home to PSV before losing 2-1 away to Borussia Dortmund and 1-0 at home to Arsenal]. He has no doubt about the quality test, saying: "The Champions League is the greatest competition there is. You dare not make a mistake. Our coach shows us videos of the opposition, and we have to watch them carefully because we concentrate on both the strengths and weaknesses of the other teams.

●"Laurent Blanc always tries to play skilful football. That's the way I want to be. It would be great to be considered his successor with France"

"I've found the refereeing is sharper in the Champions League than in domestic competition. They come down on you much quicker. A tackle that brings a yellow card in the French League brings a red one in Europe. The most important thing is not to fall for provocation."

Mexes is hardly weighed down by the event's history, however. As he says: "The first European Champions Final I remember was when Marseille lost on penalties to Red Star Belgrade in Bari in 1991. I was only nine and I wasn't particularly a supporter of Marseille, but I was mad about football. I watched it right to the end and I remember everyone at home crying when Marseille lost. Then I remember when Marseille won it in 1993...and Zinedine Zidane's wonderful match-winning goal for Real Madrid in last season's Final against Leverkusen. I didn't miss a match last season – on television, at least. I watched everything I could, every Tuesday and Wednesday night on television."

Now the rest of Europe is watching him.

Well-groomed...Mexes is a product of Auxerre's famous youth scheme

Jose PEKERMAN

Inspiring Scolari

The influence of Argentina's coaching guru extends to Brazil

WHEN Luiz Felipe Scolari took over as Brazil coach and salvaged their World Cup qualifying campaign, he openly declared that Brazil would use the style and tactics of Jose Pekerman. Interviewed after his Far East triumph, Scolari acknowledged the debt to the Argentinian. "We followed his scheme. Yes, I admit it. We tried to play like Argentina played last year," he said.

So who is Jose Pekerman? You could be excused for not knowing because he has always kept a very low profile. But when the Argentinian FA was looking for a new coach following 'Kaiser' Daniel Passarella's abdication after the 1998 World Cup, the obvious choice was Pekerman, the successful junior team coach whose sides had won two world titles – now three – and several continental trophies.

However, Pekerman suggested Marcelo Bielsa, whom he calls "an outstanding technical strategist", and instead became Argentina's first national teams manager.

Pekerman, 52, was born in Puerto Ibicuy in Entre Rios province, north of Buenos Aires, but his family moved around and eventually to Martin Coronado on the outskirts of the capital to try their luck. From an early age he was known as 'Polvorita' (little gunpowder) because he was always darting around, generally accompanied by a football. But he always studied hard, was rather shy and spoke little – a characteristic he has kept to this day.

●"Talent can be perfected, oriented and corrected, but you cannot get something from nothing"

Pekerman made his First Division debut at 19 for Argentinos Juniors and remembers the team's mascot was Diego Maradona, who did marvels with the ball as half-time entertainment. The team's coach, Juan Carlos Gimenez, recalls: "Jose was a good, steady midfielder, never played dirty and could direct the team and rhythm without hardly saying a word, but I had to opt for a player with more First Division experience."

Pekerman first became interested in coaching in 1974 when he was transferred to Colombia's Independiente Medellin and met Osvaldo Zubeldia, the great coach who led Estudiantes de La Plata to three Libertadores Cups, from 1968 to 1970.

In 1978, a knee injury virtually ended his playing career and he returned to Buenos Aires with his wife Matilde and daughter Vanesa, born in Medellin. However, work was hard to find. He drove a taxi for a time, but his urge to return to soccer made him take a coaching course in 1981. He was assistant coach at a couple of clubs before returning to Argentinos Juniors, where he won no fewer than nine titles with the junior team. When the Argentinian FA was looking for a national junior coach in 1994, he got the job, to the surprise of many.

Pekerman believes talented players are born. "Talent can be perfected, oriented, corrected, but you cannot get something from nothing," he says. "Talented youngsters appear in Argentina all the time, but we cannot deny that the current economic situation has affected development. But we have had many crises and soccer has always survived."

Good technique is what Pekerman looks for first in a player. "That is the basis of a good footballer," he says. "Afterwards you can consider other things such as fitness, tactics and understanding of the game.

"When Maradona came to Argentinos Juniors, we knew he was on the verge of something great. We first-team players stayed on after training to watch him play in the junior team.

"But today the pleasure of playing for itself is lost. There are other motivations such as money, of which there is too much in the game. Before, we used to play for pure passion – and genius springs from passion."

After this year's World Cup Pekerman was again the FA's top choice, though not the popular one, to take over as national coach. He would have been an excellent appointment because Argentina's next World Cup team is likely to include many of the players who won the 2001 World Youth Cup under Pekerman and playing such excellent football. But again he refused, and a few weeks later resigned his manager's job altogether, saying that he was worn out.

Pekerman has always been humble. In Chile, when he found his assistants at Colo Colo earned very little and could not afford cars, he always went to work by bus.

He is also known to be quite absent-minded. At a South American junior championship in Chile he appeared at the stadium with his trousers inside out and once received a prize in Cordoba wearing different coloured shoes. His daughter remembers that one day he took her to school and found it closed – it was Sunday.

But for many coaches in South America, Scolari included, Pekerman remains an inspiration.

Eric Weil

Ronald KOEMAN

Amsterdam ambition

The Ajax coach is making his experience tell with the Dutch Double winners

AJAX may bring a great deal of youthful exuberance to the Champions League, but they will benefit from the wealth of winning experience wielded by coach Ronald Koeman.

The former Holland stalwart was twice a Champions Cup winner, with PSV Eindhoven in 1988 and then four years later, with Barcelona. His nerveless approach paid dividends for both clubs – neither of whom have been anywhere near winning the trophy since he left.

Koeman returned home to retire, then made a Barcelona comeback as assistant to Louis Van Gaal. When Van Gaal quit to become Holland boss in 2000 Koeman followed him home, this time as coach to Vitesse Arnhem. His managerial potential shone through, and long before the season's end it was an open secret that he was bound for Amsterdam to take charge of Ajax.

His appointment soon brought results as Ajax carried off the League and Cup double. Now, Koeman has to revive the club's image as one of the Champions League elite. But he is realistic and accepts a steep learning curve is in prospect. Only four of his first team have, as he puts it, "real experience of playing in the Champions League".

But he does promise a positive attitude – most of the time. Koeman says: "My goal is to see Ajax playing attacking football with wingers, but that is possible only in seven matches out of 10 in the Dutch League. You dare not be rigid about tactics. Sometimes you have to adjust to the match or the opposition. So we change the shape but without ever abandoning our commitment to attack.

"Even in the Champions League we will always start, ideally, with wingers. But I cannot guarantee it in every game. I am not arrogant enough to say we can always impose our style on a match. Sometimes I might feel it necessary to play two extra midfielders rather than two wingers. Or, perhaps, the wingers should play a little deeper, more cautiously, in European competition.

"At least we have a lot of talented young players who have made a great deal of progress this year."

Koeman draws on his own playing career to underline the value of the work ethic. Three times a week he used to practise free-kicks for an extra half-hour after training, and it paid off in terms of a string of crucial goals. He says: "That's my one complaint about players now: they don't work hard enough on their weaknesses. Not like in my time."

Koeman accepts that the standard of the domestic League has slipped since Ajax became the last Dutch club to win the Champions Cup back in 1995, but he believes they are now improving from a low. For evidence he points to Feyenoord's UEFA Cup triumph last season and the fact that Ajax got the better of them in League and Cup.

● "People can't live in the past. They wanted too much beautiful football, not enough strength of character"

He says: "People have realised they can't live in the past any more. They wanted too much beautiful football, not enough strength of character. Everyone has to work at the game."

Koeman's experience of football hype has made him aware of the need to counter suggestions that, just because Ajax were back at the top in Holland, they would automatically regain their former status as one of Europe's benchmark clubs.

"At least," he concedes, "we have a lot more character and personality and are much harder to beat than a year or so ago. One of the most positive developments for me has been the progress of Cristian Chivu, our Romanian defender. He is the captain despite being only 21 because of his strong personality and his experience – he's played more than 20 times for his country already.

"You can see his value when he isn't there. He takes a leadership role both on and off the pitch. That's even more impressive because it's not easy for a foreign player to stamp his personality in that way."

Koeman's approach to his foreign players is interesting. Many Dutch and Belgian clubs, for example, use English as a *lingua franca* in training, but Koeman insists his imported players learn Dutch to help them associate with more commitment to the culture in which they must live and work. Only in one-on-one discussions, "for particular details", will Koeman switch into English. "But never," he insists, "in front of the rest of the squad."

In Champions League terms, Koeman remains a bigger star than any of his players. But he has no illusions. He says: "It's always good to know you have a certain credit, but I will be judged on my ability as a coach, not for what I may have won as a player. The football world is tough – no results, no job."

Keir Radnedge

Keir Radnedge in Zurich

COMMENTARY

Not me, ref...Alan Shearer's sending off against Charlton was later rescinded, but that could not happen under the new rule

Red alert

Warning signs as FIFA fiddles with the club game

FIFA PRESIDENT Sepp Blatter complained, on emerging from his first executive committee since the World Cup, that the world governing body had forgotten what it was really all about – football.

He immediately set about trying to put that right with a gesture which appeared to owe everything to short-term knee-jerk reaction and nothing to long-term strategy. I refer, of course, to the order that any player sent off should be suspended for the next match in that competition – without right of appeal.

That flew in the face of the English practice, which has evolved over many years to balance everyone's best interests, whereby a player has two weeks in which to appeal. The only protest possible, under the Blatter dictum, would concern the length of subsequent suspension.

Blatter virtually made it up as he went along in his press conference. Asked when the rule change would come into effect, he said: "From now – or as soon as we can inform all the national associations. Of course, that may take two or three days. October 1 seems a good date to start."

It appears that Blatter was sparked into action not by a commission of inquiry or a long-established think tank but by a single incident in a recent Swiss League match between Grasshopper and Basle.

Hopper goalkeeper Fabrice Borer was sent off for bringing down Basle's Herve Tum, but whether Tum had been tripped or fell of his own accord was open to question. The disciplinary commissioner decided it was a fall and that Borer should be freed to play in the next match. That, for Blatter, was undermining the referee. Never mind justice.

Blatter said: "We must act to protect the referee's authority. They are under enough pressure. When people question the referee's decisions they are questioning football itself. We cannot allow this to continue.

"When a player commits a [red card] foul then no scientific evidence, whether camera or other, shall change this decision."

The most notable recent English case of a red card being quashed centred on Newcastle skipper Alan Shearer, who was sent off, accused of having elbowed Charlton's Jon Fortune. Shearer appealed, referee Andy D'Urso studied the video and decided he had been wrong.

The only situation in which a banished player can now escape would be mistaken identity – such as the way Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink escaped last season after taking a red card rap for Mario Melchiot in the Worthington Cup semi-final defeat at Tottenham.

Referees will not be allowed to change their mind after studying video replays, either.

I would have thought FIFA had matters of greater concern than fiddling about in the club game. The apparent bumbling acquiescence of the English football authorities in accepting Blatter's order will only encourage him to attack other club issues.

Settling scores, not solving problems

FIFA has replaced its entire 10-man referees' committee as a first step towards revolutionising World Cup officiating.

But it is hard to resist the suspicion that a few scores may have been settled conveniently along the way. Consider the fact that the outgoing committee members included the 1990 World Cup referee Edgardo Codesal from Mexico and Somalia's Addo Farah.

At the CONCACAF Congress earlier this year, Codesal led a one-man rebellion against president Jack Warner, one of Blatter's most loyal supporters. As for Addo, it was his allegations about vote-rigging at the 1998 FIFA Congress that fuelled the pre-World Cup scandal.

The new committee president is another avowed Blatter backer, Spain's Angel Maria Villar. He had been a member of the referees' committee but quit in anger after his own country's shoot-out defeat by South Korea in the World Cup quarter-finals.

Villar was persuaded, "for the sake of unity", to stay on until the end of the World Cup. Now he has his reward. It will be fascinating to see what a former international brings to the refereeing debate.

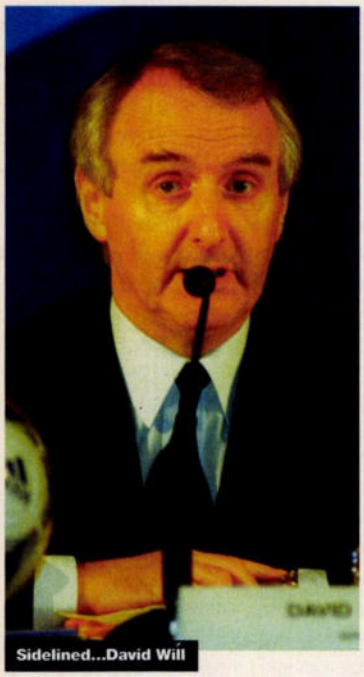
The race for 2008

THE BIDDING war for the 2008 European Championship is winding up to a fascinating finale. The inspection teams have virtually completed their tours of the bidding countries, and UEFA's executive votes on December 14.

Narrow favourite remains Austria-Switzerland, but Scotland-Ireland and the Nordic quartet are still in with a loud shout. So is Russia, when you consider the numerically powerful and increasingly influential Eastern European bloc within UEFA.

More on that issue next month.

Blatter's bucket of whitewash


Sidelined...David Will

DAVID WILL is out of one of his FIFA jobs. The Scot, a FIFA vice-president, led the controversial internal audit committee (IAC) which was critical of Blatter's handling of FIFA finances.

The committee has been given the green light to carry on by Blatter – but with an entirely new membership. That flies in the face of all the sanctimonious protestations about transparency within FIFA.

It will be about as effective as Sven Goran Eriksson's England teams in the second half of friendly matches, when cohesion, understanding, commitment and purpose have been all but destroyed by the wholesale introduction of a bunch of substitutes.

None of the new members of the IAC are from the executive committee. Basically, it is a committee armed not with the sword of truth but with a bucket of whitewash.

Sepp misses the trick

EVER SINCE the days of Joao Havelange, FIFA has delighted in comparing itself with the United Nations. But the United Nations security council comprises the big players of world trade and politics. You can hardly say the same of the revamped FIFA executive.

I counted only six of the 26 members from among the major soccer nations: Julio Grondona (Argentina), Issa Hayatou (Cameroon, major in African terms), Angel Maria Villar (Spain), Ricardo Teixeira (Brazil), Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder (Germany) and Michel Platini (France).

How fit are the likes of Tonga's Ahongalu Fusimalohi or Mali's Amadou Diakite to dictate to Western Europe or South America? It is a question that becomes all the more pressing after the unveiling of Blatter's restructured FIFA.

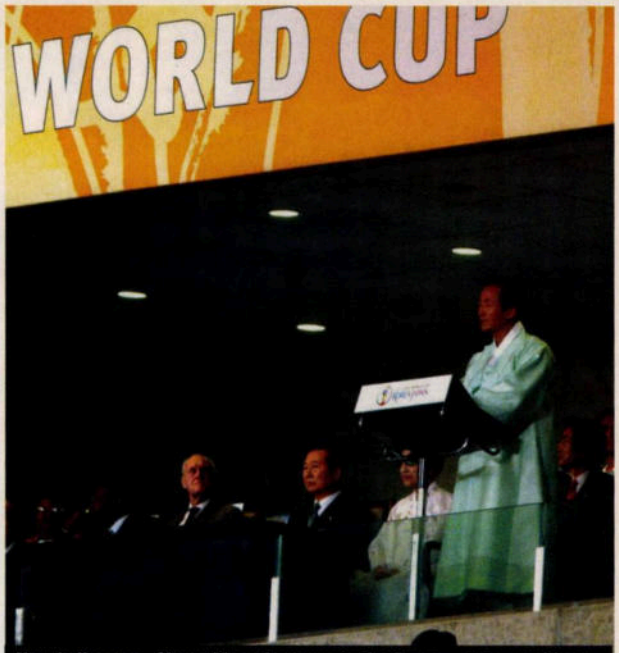
Not so much restructured, more tinkered around the edges. Middle management has all but evaporated, which is bad news for the efficiency and accountability within FIFA. The executive is too unwieldy and unimpressive to make any serious impact on the running or direction of the game. Blatter may have missed a trick. He should have created a mini executive, like a senior board of directors, made up of the presidents of the regional confederations. But then, that would been too close to comfort to the proposals in the famous Vision document with which UEFA once tried to beat Havelange around the head.

One other peculiarity regarding FIFA's internal restructuring concerns the vacant post of general secretary.

Blatter says he wants to fill the role (held on a caretaker basis by Urs Linzi since the departure of Michel Zen-Ruffinen) with a man who is university educated, experienced in business and sports administration, conversational master of at least three of the main FIFA languages and aged between 35 and 55. Oh, and he must also be capable of being loyal to the president.

But why would anyone want the job? Under Blatter's new structure the general secretary of FIFA will have no power.

Save the money, Sepp.



New ball game...Chung Mong-joon wants the Korean state presidency

Farewell Chung?

CHUNG MONG-JOON is, as forecast here, to stand for state president of South Korea. His popularity level will never be higher in the wake of the World Cup. This new target meant he was too busy to attend FIFA's first post-World Cup executive in Zurich. How long, one wonders, will he continue to play the football game now 'his' World Cup is history?

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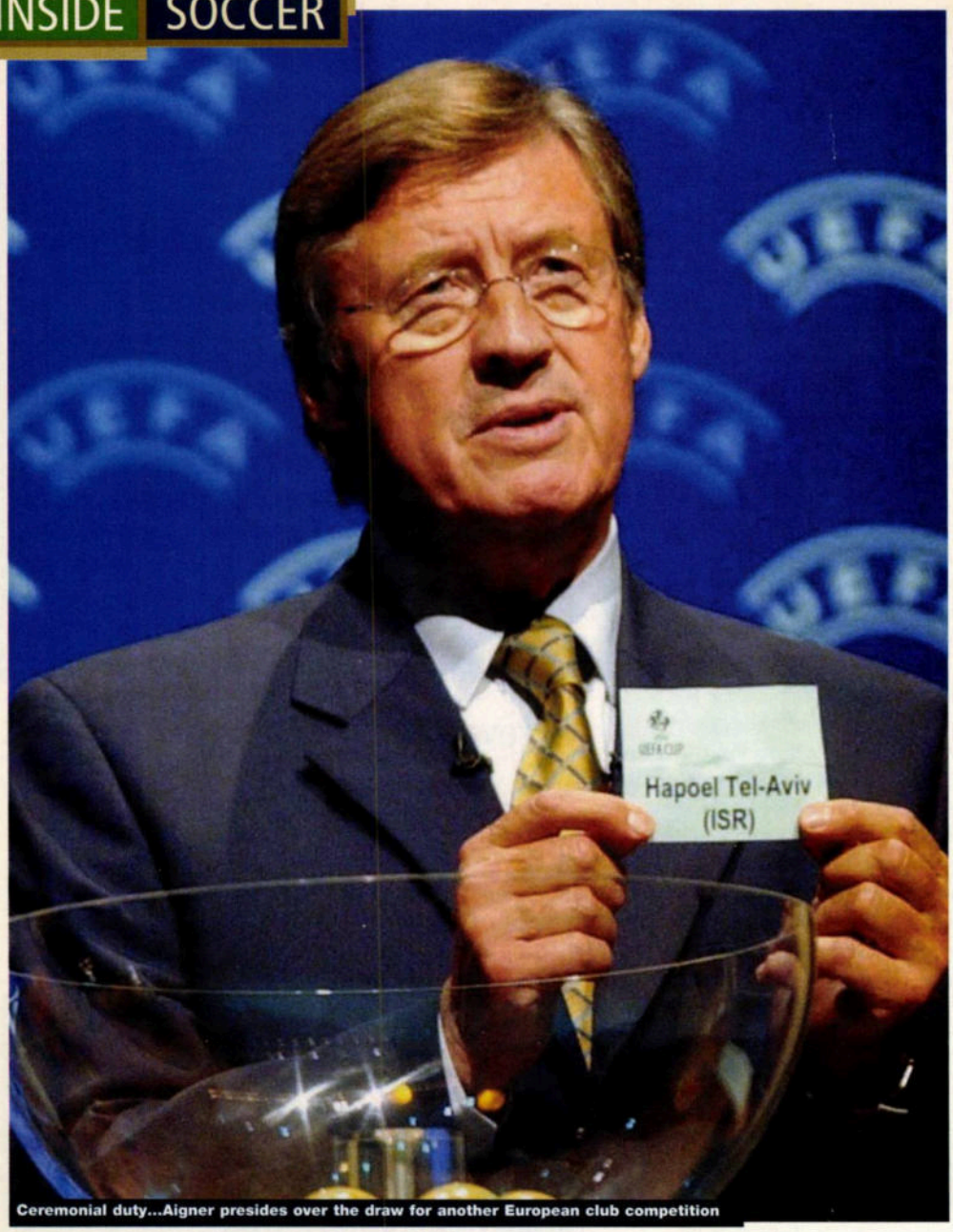

Ceremonial duty...Aigner presides over the draw for another European club competition

The world according to Aigner

WORLD SOCCER EXCLUSIVE: Gerhard Aigner, chief executive of UEFA, in conversation with Keir Radnedge

GERHARD AIGNER is boss of UEFA, widely considered – nowadays at least – as the smoothest-running football authority around. It wasn't always like that.

The European federation does not win all its battles. It came out on the wrong side of the result when Sepp Blatter was re-elected president of FIFA earlier this year; it also came out on the wrong side in its crucial showdown with the European legal and political system in the Bosman case.

For the foreseeable future, UEFA will also be fighting with the top clubs over the structure of the Champions League. The multi-million revenues not only fund UEFA's missionary work but facilitated the construction of its award-winning lakeside headquarters at Nyon, east of Geneva.

Turning away from the picture window overlooking the lake from his office, Aigner – German but long-time resident in Switzerland – reviewed his 33 years at UEFA. That took him from the depths of the Heysel disaster to the challenges posed by television; from the delicate Champions League balancing act to the crisis provoked by the European Court's misjudgment on Bosman; and, of course, to the tetchy relationship with FIFA and why the world governing body should stop meddling where it has no right.

WORLD SOCCER: When you joined UEFA in 1969 what did you expect?

GERHARD AIGNER: I qualified in economics, specialising in exports, and I had already agreed a contract with BMW when I saw the UEFA advert in a newspaper. I was in Switzerland at the time to do my language training in French. In 1968 there had been political problems in France, of course, and I hadn't been able to go there, so I had decided to come to Switzerland, where I found a job in the watchmaking industry. Then I looked around in Germany for companies heavily involved in exports and I had almost decided to go to BMW. Working for them I would have gone to the Middle East and Asia but, of course, that never happened. I saw the advert and I thought, well, football, I must give it a go. I was interested because it involved refereeing and all the things I had done in the game, and I was, in any case, a football fan. I thought I would be here for maybe a year or two. But the organisation grew and grew, and I kept moving into more interesting and more challenging jobs and never had time to think about anything else. So I just stayed around.

What have been the best and the worst things?

The best has been the time spent working with youth football and the human contact that you have in that sphere, much more than with the professional side of the game, where everything is more on a business level. In youth football, the players, in fact everyone involved, seem much more genuine, and I enjoy that. The worst moment, of course, was the Heysel disaster in 1985.

That seems to have been a critical stage in your career because in 1989, comparatively soon after, you succeeded Hans Bangerter as general secretary.

The years from 1985 to 1990 were watershed years for UEFA because several things happened almost simultaneously. We had many problems with hooligans that were wrongly attributed solely to football. Also, television emerged very powerfully, and the game became much more commercial. We had this sudden

influx of money from TV and we knew where it was going to lead us. On the other hand, we had to ensure the game was not misused and abused by those who might want to own it. To sum up, we had to overcome Heysel and at the same time see what we could do with our sport in a new era. Also, the European Union was becoming more important to our activities. So there were several things, and I was probably at the right age to meet the challenge because I pride myself that I don't mind a little fight at times. It was a very dynamic, crucial period.

You have worked in all that time with only four presidents. What did each bring to European football?

When I joined UEFA the offices were in Berne and the president was a Swiss, Gustav Wiederkehr. He was the first man to realise that UEFA was going to be important, and this brought the first moments of friction with FIFA in the days of Sir Stanley Rous's presidency. Wiederkehr was a very thoughtful person but straightforward and direct in attacking problems. I had been here only three years when we lost him after a heart attack. Then we had an Italian, Artemio Franchi. He was a completely different character. Latin personality, a very intelligent and lucid diplomat. He had different ways of achieving his goals. Then, of course, he was killed in a car crash and Jacques Georges from France became president. He was different again. Very much the father figure. He didn't really like fighting for things or confrontation. He was president at the time of Heysel when we both had to appear before the courts and that affected his health. So, in due course, Lennart Johansson succeeded him, in 1989.

The right man in the right place at the right time?

Certainly – because Lennart came from a successful business background and he is a manager. He could see what needed to be done to make things happen. He understood commercial developments and knew how best to secure value from TV money. There were people out there who were constantly trying to cause trouble, stir things up, preparing superleague proposals and so on. In the end we realised we couldn't get away from it. There was so much TV money in the market that if we didn't give the clubs the chance to earn that money we would have a revolution on our hands. So we decided on the Champions League, which, I think, surprised the clubs. Lennart also foresaw how UEFA needed to change in organisational terms to cope with these developments.

Do you worry, sometimes, that the Champions League is going to run away with the whole show?

If we had been like an architect with a blank sheet on a drawing board, I don't think we would have developed our football competitions that way. The Champions League and club football as it is today are the children of the television age – coupled with the Bosman decision, which created another explosion within the game. But when you are a sports organisation you have a wider responsibility which embraces youth football, the training of referees and coaches, and so many other factors. With that in mind you cannot allow the top level of the game to run out of control. You have to try to keep it under control and maintain sporting values as best you can. I think we have managed that despite all the difficulties. The Bosman decision, of course, was an almost fatal blow because it triggered all these crazy ideas among the clubs of buying up all the best players and creating superleagues and so on.

Do you think club and national team football are now out of balance? The perception is that the European Championship is there just two days a month. The other 28 or 29 days it's all club football. Isn't that dangerous?

But wasn't it always like that? Wasn't the league championship always the main focus for football fans? What's happened is that the level of projection has changed. The international club competitions only started gaining popularity in the 1960s. Also, when I joined UEFA, there were no games live on TV. People were afraid that no one would go to the games! You had to wait to read about the matches in the newspapers the next day. You often didn't know where many of the clubs came from. It was all unknown territory. Today, you can study geography by following the European club competitions. I wouldn't say the importance of the national teams has vanished or even diminished. Certainly, the popularity of club football has grown enormously but it is the everyday bread and butter for the fans. You can't get away from that. This is where we are different from FIFA because we deal intensively with club football and try to find solutions to its problems. I think we are a lot more competent in that area than FIFA can ever be.

Prelude to tragedy...police try to hold back fans at Heysel stadium

● 'It's a shame that FIFA doesn't do what any other company would do – delegate responsibility on a local basis and let the problem be solved there'

Combat...Dortmund (yellow) v Auxerre in the Champions League

Take, for example, FIFA's new directive about the automatic one-game suspension for a sent-off player. Should it be meddling in club football like that?

Well, of course, it applies not only for clubs but for all other matches and competitions too. I think it's fine that there's a central body to say: "This is the rule and this is the interpretation." You need a central body for these things. But I think we have our own problems today in European football, especially with the EU and the big clubs – difficulties related specifically to club football with labour law and contracts. To be the game's authority, in that context, requires a heavy commitment so that you are knowledgeable, so that you understand what has happened and what will happen.

Best of enemies...Sepp Blatter (left) and Lennart Johansson

I think FIFA's outdated there. They find it difficult to cope in that environment. It's a shame that FIFA doesn't do what any other company would do – delegate responsibility on a local basis and let the problem be solved there. We have to get more coherent work done by the top organisation so that anybody and everybody can benefit from the knowledge we all gain.

Being more specific about the Champions League and the reduction from next season of the second round to a knockout stage instead of a group; the surprise was that the change occurred so quickly. Usually with UEFA any suggestion for change goes away into a committee for six months, then it comes back to the club competitions committee, and then it goes to the executive . . . and then 'we'll do it in two years' time'. This change looked like a knee-jerk reaction to comments at the World Cup about the best players being tired because of their Champions League commitments. Fair or unfair?
In fact, in practically the first season with this format we knew we had a problem. We debated it practically every year and said: "What are we going to do about this second round?" It's brought so many problems: for example, clubs putting out reserve teams when they have qualified or been knocked out, or players looking for a yellow card so that they can then be suspended in the next game and be back for the quarter-finals. Everyone hates all these things but, you know, you can't blame the player or the coach. You can only blame yourself for having created a competition format which allows this to happen. What WAS new was the collapse of the TV rights market. Also, we were coming towards the end of the present TV contracts and we had to ask ourselves: Were we going to present the same concept for the next three years to TV partners who were telling us things weren't going so well?

● 'It's not true what some of the clubs have said. We did not consult the G-14 but we did consult the clubs of the G-14'

But when you invited tenders for the commercial agents it wasn't mentioned.
In the tender process [won by TEAM Marketing] we decided to base everything on the present concept. But then in February and March this year it became very evident that the market was collapsing. So we realised we had to do away with the weakest element of this format and adapt the competition for the long-term health of the market. Maybe it did appear that the decision had been made more quickly than you might expect. But that's one of the positive things to come out of the way we restructured UEFA two and a half years ago. We realised we could not handle this business with the bureaucratic system we had. We were too slow, we had too much paperwork. The credit again belongs to Lennart Johansson, who understood how our internal organisation needed to be reshaped. Now we are much faster in assessing issues, responding to them and taking decisions. Incidentally, it's not true what some of the clubs have said. We did NOT consult the G-14 but we DID consult the CLUBS of the G-14. There is a difference! I am quite satisfied with the way we went about things, but maybe the communication process could have been better. Anyway, the executive committee took a unanimous decision, and that, I think, speaks for itself. The members were all convinced this change was needed.

On the subject of rules and format, why do you maintain a system that creates dead matches by separating teams level on points not, initially, by goal difference but by mutual results?
You surprise me. I would have thought the system we use is more logical. Doesn't it make sense that if you lose twice against team A, they should finish above you when you are level on points? Maybe with goal difference we would have more goals. But I don't think, this season, that in the Champions League we can complain we don't get enough goals.

Moving on to the relationship between UEFA and FIFA. Are there any prospects that the relationship can improve while Sepp Blatter is president of FIFA?
I think so, yes. We have no ambition to take anything from FIFA as long as FIFA has no ambition to do anything that impedes what we are doing. I think we can get on well. Indeed, as long as there is no World Cup every two years, I think we can get along very well.

When the result of the presidential election was announced at FIFA Congress in Seoul, you and the rest of the UEFA delegation looked devastated. What was going through your mind?
I thought: "How could we have been so optimistic that the whole world wanted a more responsible FIFA? Why did we invest so much effort when nobody else wanted it?"

The fact that there was no obvious European candidate this time, that you had to support, Issa Hayatou, the African confederation president . . . doesn't that say something critical about European football?
Probably. It is true there is not even a prospective successor coming through to Lennart Johansson as UEFA president. You know, Lennart did not make it his overriding priority to continue with the presidency this year. But there was no real question about it. Maybe it's because people like him that no one would stand against him.

Half of UEFA voted for Blatter when UEFA was officially supporting Hayatou, so there is a split in UEFA. How can you deal with that?
It's difficult. The fact that our associations are both members of FIFA and members of UEFA produces a triangle that makes it so easy to create trouble. We are busy doing our work but somebody else is operating in our territory with other intentions. What can we do about it? It is all legitimate, after all. Of course, as chief executive, I try to protect the interests of UEFA. But if our member associations are being lured away for one reason or another – what can I do? If the FIFA president decides to visit Eastern Europe, for example, what can we do? The answer would be to eliminate the triangle and bring everything into a straight line. That would let in peace.

You mean, do away with FIFA?
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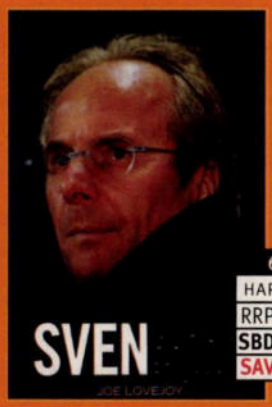

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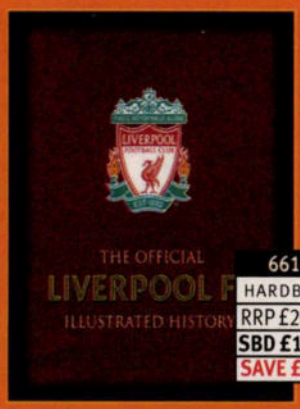

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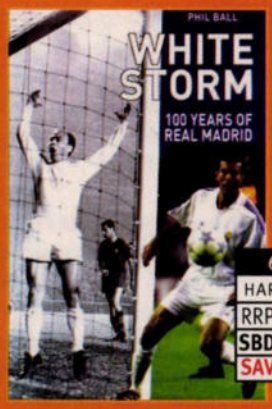

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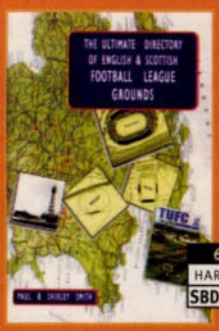

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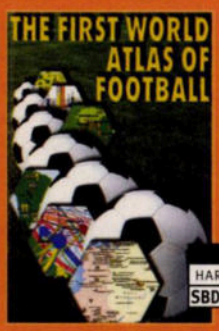

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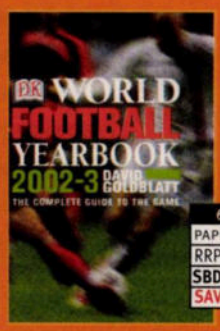

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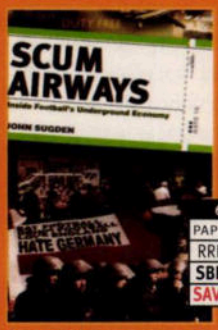

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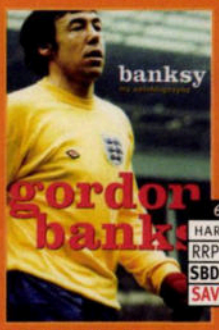

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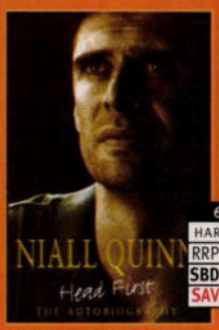

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place, the confederations in their place and then the associations.

So FIFA should restrict its activities?
Exactly. It should consider the regional confederations as its main partners. But this would mean eliminating the triangle – and that is obviously not the intention of the president of FIFA.

So much has changed in the past 10 years. FIFA and UEFA always used to talk about the football pyramid – with the governing bodies, then down to the national associations, the leagues on the next rung, and the clubs below that. But now, though the national associations have the votes, isn't it the clubs who have the real power?
Money is at the centre of power. That makes it difficult for the national associations because they hold the mandate for the development of football. Clubs have no time or scope to look after the development of the game. They are egotistic, looking after their own business. But that's why they are there, so I don't criticise them for that. On the other hand, clubs cannot claim, as they sometimes do, to be interested in the general welfare of the game. They have to understand that football has to be looked after in a larger context, and the association has to make sure clubs open the door for the children who may not become great players but still want to play football – or become a youth coach, or a referee, or a volunteer, because football's foundation is its many volunteers. Of course, the big stars help – they are the idols, the inspiration – but the association has that most important responsibility. The clubs must understand this.

A significant amount of Champions League income is diverted into development grants and subsidies for the Europe-wide game, but you don't get much credit for it, do you?
It's like newspapers never printing good news. Yes, we are doing a lot with the money. And, of course, the clubs have created this income and we are fully appreciative – as long as they appreciate our role and the fact that we make money available for the clubs not participating in European competition. Those leagues who have no team participating in the Champions League also get a share. And then we have all these clubs who go out in the first and second round; THEY get money so that they don't run into financial difficulties. We also help the associations finance the groundwork. We do the same with the income from the European Championship. I must say the clubs, to their credit, don't contest the concept, though they may, of course, contest the amounts. Even in the difficult times of Media Partners' superleague project – which led us to the present Champions League concept – the clubs didn't argue about UEFA's need to distribute income to the game in general.

● 'Clubs have no time or scope to look after the development of the game. They look after their own business, so I don't criticise them for that. But they cannot claim, as they sometimes do, to be interested in the general welfare of the game'

● 'In the Bosman case, the players' union got involved... they wanted to break the system, which they did'

Let's consider UEFA and the European Union. Starting with the Bosman judgment, most of what you do is now conditioned by the European Commission: how you can sell TV rights; how you sell tickets for the European Championship; the transfer system. Back in 1994 and 1995, why didn't UEFA settle with Bosman before the case came to the European Court?
We tried. We wanted to do it. But this was a political issue. Everybody says that UEFA was asleep. We were not asleep. We already had a regulation – I keep saying this – that allowed the player to move at the end of his contract. What was happening between the clubs [FC Liege and Dunkerque] breached our own rules. These allowed the player to go and then for the clubs to settle, if necessary through UEFA arbitration – like the system FIFA is trying to set up now. In the Bosman case, however, the players' union got involved and they wanted to break the system, which they did – with the consequences we know.

All of them?
We knew where the contract dispute would lead. But when the Court decided to go beyond that issue and abolish our 3+2 system [balancing foreign players in a club team] it was doubly harmful because that led directly to more superleague projects and all these other things.

Also the diminution of national team interests. Ajax, the club who used to pride themselves on their school for Dutch football hopefuls, have 18 foreign players. Did you know that?
The European Commission did not, and even today doesn't want to admit that this is bad for football. But it's fatal. In club football you have world select teams playing every weekend. How can a national team compete with that? It was stupid to reach that decision. The general advocate who made the recommendation said the money for the development and education of players, to replace the transfer money, could come from television! That man has never been in Austria or in Switzerland or anywhere. He was speaking as a German and all he knew was that big money there, in just one country, was coming from TV. But that was there – and that was then. Now the money is going down, should we reduce our development work? That judgment was not very clever. But football has to live with it. We have to solve the problems arising from it and maybe come out stronger than before, who knows? But what we have now – that you can become a top club by throwing money around – that was not good for football.

Sepp Blatter says FIFA wants to reactivate the pressure for the fixed five [national team-qualified players in a club line-up]. Is there any point?
We have to accept that the European Commission will never accept a system that speaks of nationality. But I do think it is willing to consider a concept that obliges clubs to use players from their own school, and we could also limit the numbers of players in club squads. If players coming up through the clubs were exempt from this rule, then we could help give easier first-team access to young players. That would automatically and immediately reduce this crazy transfer market, which has also led clubs to the brink of financial disaster. I hope the commission will support us because I think everybody has seen now what has happened. Not many people in the whole of the history of the world, I think, got rich as quickly as football agents have in the past few years.

If the European Commission is so important, is Switzerland still the right place for UEFA to have its headquarters? Shouldn't you be in Brussels, perhaps?
No, I don't think so. Whenever we have big decisions to take, the political tension comes from other, bigger countries. We would have a more difficult time, in the media for example, if we were based in a big footballing nation rather than in little Switzerland, which is not such an important football nation. If we were in Italy, can you imagine how every decision would be viewed? Or if we were in Spain or in Germany? If we took a decision that suited one of the big nations or clubs, everybody would say: "Oh, no wonder." Here, in Switzerland, we are protected from this type of speculation. No, we're not going anywhere. ■

MATCH OF THE MONTH

South Korea 0 North Korea 0

Seoul, September 7, 2002: Bridging the North-South divide

FOR the first time in almost a decade, teams from either side of the 38th parallel – the line that divides North from South Korea – faced off against each other on a football pitch.

The 0-0 draw between the two nations, fielding sides made up primarily of Under-23 players in preparation for the Asian Games and played in front of over 60,000 fans at the Seoul World Cup stadium, had more of an air of diplomacy than competition.

The traditional Korean song 'Arirang' took the place of both national anthems as the pair met on Korean soil for the first time since the home-and-away Reunification Match in October 1990.

The meeting of the two nations, who last played each other in the Qatari capital Doha during qualifying for the 1994 World Cup, had been on the cards for some time. Chung Mong-joon, president of the South Korean FA (KFA), never misses a chance to appeal to the masses in Seoul and beyond. His bid to include Pyongyang, the North's capital, in this summer's World Cup finals had failed. But he was quick to ensure his nation's communist neighbours were allowed to bask in some of the afterglow.

The game also saw the return of World Cup hero Guus Hiddink, now coach of PSV Eindhoven, who has signed a two-year deal with the KFA to work as a technical advisor. However, the Dutchman's appearance on the bench prompted an outburst from Park Hang-seo, Hiddink's assistant at the World Cup, who succeeded him as national coach. This earned Park a swift rebuke and fine from the KFA.

Not surprisingly, shortly after the match Chung, riding a wave of popularity after the successful co-hosting of the World Cup, announced his intention to stand as a candidate in South Korea's state presidential elections in December.

One long-held aim has been to produce a united Korean team, and North Korean coach Ri Jung-man said he believed such a move could create an all-conquering side.

"We got to the last eight of the 1966 World Cup, and the South got to the last four in 2002 . Together we could be a powerhouse," he said.

Michael Church

United...post-match celebrations

Bayern on the brink

FIVE of the Champions League 'heavies' managed to reach the halfway stage in the first group phase with 100 per cent records. Three wins out of three meant Arsenal (Group A), Valencia (B), Manchester United (F), Milan (G) and Barcelona (H) had one foot in the second stage.

Real Madrid, holders and 100-30 overall favourites for a repeat, missed out on that 100 per cent honour when they drew their third Group C match 3-3 away to AEK Athens, after being 3-1 down.

The major surprise was the failure of Bayern Munich to live up to their pre-season billing. They lost 3-2 at home in their opening game against Deportivo La Coruna, could only draw 1-1 in Lens, and then lost again at home, this time 2-1 to the reorganised force of Carlo Ancelotti's Milan.

"It will take a little miracle to turn this around," said Bayern president Franz Beckenbauer.

On an individual level, Milan's Pippo Inzaghi was already out front as seven-goal leading scorer.

Beating Bayern...Depor's Victor

The prospect of a club progressing from the first qualifying round to the group phase remains as elusive as ever.

Hopefuls from Estonia (Flora), the Faroe Islands (B36), Finland (Tampere), Iceland (IA), newcomers Kazakhstan (Zhenis), Lithuania (FBK Kaunas), Luxembourg (Dudelange), Northern Ireland (Portadown), Rep Ireland (Shelbourne) and Wales (Barry) were all left on the starting blocks at a time when the big guns' superstars were barely over their World Cup jet-lag.

The only winners from the first qualifying round who also found a route through the second round were APOEL Nicosia (winners against Flora, then Maribor) and Zeljeznicar (winners against IA, then Lillestrom). Neither, of course, made it beyond the third qualifying round. APOEL put up a brave fight before going down 4-2 on aggregate to AEK Athens, while Zeljeznicar collapsed 5-0 overall to Sir Bobby Robson's Newcastle.

However, four of the entrants at the second qualifying round stage did make it all the way to join the elite. Club Brugge beat Dinamo Bucharest then Shakhtar Donetsk; Basle defeated Zilina then massively upset Celtic; Kyiv Dynamo ousted Pyunik then Levski Sofia; finally, Maccabi Haifa, playing home ties in Cyprus for security reasons, overcame Belshina then Sturm Graz.

Maccabi thus became the first Israeli club to secure a place in the Champions League group stages, though their achievement was overshadowed by the fuss surrounding those European heavyweights who had been reduced to the ignominy of entry through the third qualifying round.

Keir Radnedge

● *The Champions League squads are posted on our website, www.worldsoccer.com, and will be printed in the next issue of the magazine.*

Giantkillers...Viking celebrate victory over Chelsea

Chelsea crash out

THE qualifying round for the UEFA Cup, contested largely by Europe's minnows, brought one major surprise with former UEFA Cup winners IFK Gothenburg losing 5-3 on aggregate to Moldova's Zimbru.

Top scorers were Russia's Zenit St Petersburg, who thrashed Andorra's Encamp 13-0 on aggregate. Other high-scoring walkovers were achieved by Poland's Amica Wronki (12-2 v TNS Llansantffraid), Croatia's Hajduk Split (11-0 v GI Gotu) and England's fair play entrants Ipswich (9-1 v Avenir Beggen).

Chelsea's 5-4 aggregate defeat by Norway's Viking Stavanger was the biggest shock among the 48 first round matches. Erik Nevland, once of Manchester United, was Viking's hero. He scored twice in the second leg, including the winner three minutes from time.

Leeds needed a 77th-minute goal by Nick Barmby to ensure they went through after a bad-tempered match in Ukraine against Metalurh Zaporizhzhya.

Blackburn went through only on away goals after a 4-4 aggregate draw against CSKA Sofia, having been 4-1 up with half an hour to play in the second leg.

A disputed Steed Malbranque penalty gave Fulham a 2-2 draw at home to Hajduk Split and a 3-2 aggregate win, while Ipswich squeaked through 2-1 against Sartid of Yugoslavia.

Parma, the 1999 UEFA Cup winners, were facing an embarrassing exit until Adrian Mutu popped up with a last-minute goal, his second, to give them a 3-2 home win over CSKA Moscow and a 4-3 aggregate success. The gloom hanging over Russian football deepened as Zenit St Petersburg lost 4-3 overall to Grasshopper despite winning the second leg 2-1.

Two goals by Ronald De Boer were not enough to allow Rangers to overturn a 2-0 first leg deficit against Czech side Viktoria Zizkov, losing on away goals.

Lazio drew 0-0 at Greek side Xanthi to go through 4-0 overall, but Italy's European debutants Chievo went out 2-0 to Red Star Belgrade.

Celta Vigo, top of the Spanish League, lost 1-0 at OB Odense in Denmark but edged through 2-1 on aggregate, along with Alaves.

Germany's Werder Bremen thrashed Metalurh Donetsk of Ukraine 8-0 to complete a 10-2 aggregate victory, while Schalke cruised through 8-1 on aggregate against Gomel of Belarus after a 4-0 victory in Germany.

Keir Radnedge

INTERNATIONALS

Saturday, September 7

Sep 7 - Seoul - friendly
South Korea 0
North Korea 0
Att: 60,000. **Ref:** Kwon (SKo)
South Korea: Lee Woon-jae - Cho Sung-hwan, Park Yo-seb, Choi Jin-cheul, Kim Dong-jin, Kim Du-hyun, Lee Young-pyo, Choi Tai-uk, Lee Dong-gook, Kim Eun-jung, Lee Chun-soo.
North Korea: Jang Jung-hyok - So Hyok-chol, Ri Man-chol, Ri Bong-sam, Kim Yong-jun, Jon Yong-chol, Han Sung-chol, Ri Gyong-in, Rim Gun-u, Kim Yong-su, Pak Sung-gwan.

Saturday, September 14

Sep 14 - Bangkok - friendly
Thailand 1 (Kiatisuk 6)
Bahrain 1 (Ali Ahmed 20)
HT: 1-1

Tuesday, September 17

Sep 17 - Tabriz, Iran - LG Cup
Iran 1 (Bavab og 26)
Morocco 1 (Kalaei 90)
HT: 1-0
Iran 4-3 on pens

Sep 17 - Tabriz, Iran - LG Cup
Paraguay 2
South Africa 0

Thursday, September 19

Sep 19 - Tabriz, Iran - LG Cup Final
Iran 1 (Daei 40)
Paraguay 1 (Bariero 35)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 30,000
Iran 4-3 on pens

Sep 19 - Tabriz, Iran - LG Cup 3rd-place play-off
Morocco 0
South Africa 0
Morocco 3-0 on pens

Saturday, September 21

Sep 21 - Blantyre - Cosafa CC Final, 1st leg
Malawi 1 (Mabedi pen 44)
South Africa 3 (Mayo 42, 58, Kauleza 88)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Shikapande (Zam)
Malawi: Dzinkambani - Mtambo (Mgangira 46), Mabedi, Msowoya, Nundwe, Kondowe (Yobe 79), Phiri (Munthali 79), Mponda, Maduka, Chitsulo, Kanyenda.
South Africa: Arendse - Nzama, Makhanya, Molefe, Mabizela, Shai (Motlohi 71), Magalefa, Zwane, Mazibuko, Kukame (Kauleza 55), Mayo.

Tuesday, September 24

Sep 24 - Annaba - friendly
Algeria 1 (Amaouche 46)
Uganda 1 (Nibere 30)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Benaissa

Thursday, September 26

Sep 26 - Port Louis - friendly
Mauritius 1
Seychelles 0

Saturday, September 28

Sep 28 - Durban - Cosafa CC Final, 2nd leg
South Africa 1 (Vilakazi 90)
Malawi 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Musuka (Zim)
South Africa: Arendse - Nzama, McNab, Mabizela, Makhanya, Magalefa, Mazibuko, Shai (Lackay 55), Zwane, Kauleza (Vilakazi 72), Mayo.
Malawi: Nyasulu - Chitsulo, Kondowe (Phiri 52), Yobe, Gatros, Nundwe, Mgangira, Msowoya, Maduka (Mwafulirwa 78), Kafwafwa (Msuku 52), Kanyenda.

Sep 28 - Zimbabwe - friendly
Zimbabwe 0
Zambia 0

Wednesday, October 2

Oct 2 - Mali - friendly
Mali 2
Mauritania 1

Thursday, October 3

Oct 3 - Rabat - friendly
Morocco 6
Niger 1

Sunday, October 6

Oct 6 - Barbados - friendly
Barbados 3 (Burrowes 2, M Forde)
St Lucia 2 (Joseph, Xavier)

Tuesday, October 8

Oct 8 - Ghana - friendly
Ghana 2
Lesotho 1

EURO 2004 QUALIFIERS

Group 1

12.10.02 .....France-Slovenia 5-0
12.10.02 .....Malta-Israel 0-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	2	2	0	0	7	1	6
Israel	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Slovenia	2	1	0	1	3	5	3
Cyprus	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Malta	2	0	0	2	0	5	0

Group 2

12.10.02 .....Denmark-Luxembourg 2-0
12.10.02 .....Romania-Norway 0-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Denmark	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Norway	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Romania	2	1	0	1	3	1	3
Luxembourg	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Bosnia-Herz	1	0	0	1	0	3	0

Group 3

12.10.02 .....Belarus-Austria 0-2
12.10.02 .....Moldova-Czech Republic 0-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Austria	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
Holland	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Czech Republic	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Moldova	2	0	0	2	0	4	0
Belarus	2	0	0	2	0	5	0

Group 4

12.10.02 .....Poland-Latvia 0-1
12.10.02 .....Sweden-Hungary 1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Latvia	2	1	1	0	1	0	4
Poland	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Sweden	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Hungary	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
San Marino	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

Group 5

12.10.02 .....Iceland-Scotland 0-2
12.10.02 .....Lithuania-Faroe Islands 2-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Germany	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Lithuania	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Faroe Islands	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Iceland	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

Group 6

12.10.02 .....Spain-Northern Ireland 3-0
12.10.02 .....Ukraine-Greece 2-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	2	2	0	0	5	0	6
Ukraine	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Armenia	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Northern Ireland	1	0	0	1	0	3	0
Greece	2	0	0	2	0	4	0

Group 7

12.10.02 .....Macedonia-Turkey 1-2
12.10.02 .....Slovakia-England 1-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Turkey	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
England	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Liechtenstein	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Macedonia	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Slovakia	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

Group 8

12.10.02 .....Andorra-Belgium 0-1
12.10.02 .....Bulgaria-Croatia 2-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulgaria	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
Belgium	2	1	0	1	1	2	3
Estonia	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Croatia	2	0	1	1	0	2	1
Andorra	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

Group 9

12.10.02 .....Finland-Azerbaijan 3-0
12.10.02 .....Italy-Yugoslavia 1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Wales	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Finland	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Yugoslavia	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Azerbaijan	2	0	0	2	0	5	0

Group 10

12.10.02 .....Albania-Switzerland 1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Switzerland	2	1	1	0	5	2	4
Russia	1	1	0	0	4	2	3
Albania	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Rep Ireland	1	0	0	1	2	4	0
Georgia	1	0	0	1	1	4	0

- The 10 group winners qualify for the finals automatically; the 10 runners-up will play-off in five head-to-head, home and away ties, the winners of which also qualify.
- Qualifying play-off dates: Nov 15, 2003; Nov 19, 2003.
- Portugal qualify automatically for the finals as hosts.
- Finals tournament: opening match – June 12, 2004, in Oporto; Final – July 4, 2004, in Lisbon.

- **Full line-ups and review of both October rounds of qualifiers in next month's issue**

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP 2004 QUALIFIERS

Group 1

12.10.02 .....Malawi-Angola 1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Malawi	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Nigeria	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Angola	2	0	1	1	0	1	1

Group 2

12.10.02 .....Liberia-Niger 1-0
13.10.02 .....Ethiopia-Guinea 1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guinea	2	1	0	1	3	1	3
Niger	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Ethiopia	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Liberia	2	1	0	1	1	3	3

Group 3

12.10.02 .....Tanzania-Sudan 1-2
12.10.02 .....Zambia-Benin 1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Benin	2	1	1	0	5	1	4
Zambia	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Sudan	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Tanzania	2	0	0	2	1	6	0

Group 4

13.10.02 .....Burkina Faso-Central African Rep...2-1
13.10.02 .....Mozambique-Congo 0-3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Congo	2	1	1	0	3	0	4
Burkina Faso	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Cent Af Rep	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Mozambique	2	0	1	1	1	4	1

Group 5

12.10.02 .....Cape Verde Islands-Kenya 0-1
12.10.02 .....Togo-Mauritania 1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kenya	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
Cape Verde	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Togo	2	1	0	1	1	3	3
Mauritania	2	0	0	2	0	3	0

Group 6

12.10.02 .....Eritrea-Zimbabwe 0-1
13.10.02 .....Mali-Seychelles 3-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zimbabwe	2	2	0	0	2	0	6
Mali	2	1	0	1	3	1	3
Seychelles	2	1	0	1	1	3	3
Eritrea	2	0	0	2	0	2	0

Group 7

12.10.02 .....Sierra Leone-Gabon 2-0
13.10.02 .....Morocco-Equatorial Guinea 5-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Morocco	2	2	0	0	6	0	6
Sierra Leone	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
Gabon	2	0	0	2	0	3	0
Equatorial Guinea	2	0	0	2	1	8	0

Group 8

13.10.02 .....Gambia-Lesotho 6-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gambia	1	1	0	0	6	0	3
Senegal	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Lesotho	2	0	0	2	0	7	0

Group 9

13.10.02 .....DR Congo-Botswana 2-0
13.10.02 .....Swaziland-Libya 2-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Swaziland	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
DR Congo	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Libya	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
Botswana	2	0	1	1	0	2	1

Group 10

12.10.02 .....Mauritius-Madagascar 0-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Madagascar	2	2	0	0	2	0	6
Egypt	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Mauritius	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

Group 11

13.10.02 .....South Africa-Burundi 2-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Africa	2	1	1	0	2	0	4
Ivory Coast	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Burundi	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

Group 12

11.10.02 .....Algeria-Chad 4-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Algeria	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
Namibia	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Chad	1	0	0	1	1	4	0

Group 13

13.10.02 .....Ghana-Rwanda.....4-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ghana	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Uganda	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Rwanda	1	0	0	1	2	4	0

● The 13 group winners qualify for the finals, along with hosts Tunisia and holders Cameroon.
● The 16th finals place will be awarded to the best second-placed finishers from Groups 1 to 10. This will be decided first by the highest number of points, then goal difference, then highest number of goals scored and, if necessary, a play-off.

EUROPE

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

1st group phase

Group A

September 17

Arsenal (Eng) 2 (Bergkamp 62, Ljungberg 77)
Borussia Dortmund (Ger) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 34,907. **Ref:** Frisk (Swe)
Arsenal: Seaman - Luzhnyi (Lauren 74), Keown, Campbell, Cole - Wiltord (Toure 90), Gilberto Silva, Vieira, Ljungberg (Cygan 85) - Bergkamp, Henry.
Dortmund: Lehmann - Evanilson, Metzelder, Madouni, Dede - Heinrich, Kehl - Ewerthon (Reina 72), Frings, Fernandez (Herrlich 72) - Koller.

Auxerre (Fra) 0
PSV Eindhoven (Hol) 0
Att: 21,000. **Ref:** Trentalange (Ita)
Auxerre: Cool - Radet, Mexes, Boumsong, Jaures - Tainio, Faye - Lachuer, Kapo, Fadiga - Mwaruwari (Gonzalez 84).
PSV: ten Rouwelaar - Bogelund, Ooijer, Hofland, Heintze - Van der Schaaf (Lucius 40), Vogel - Rommedahl, Bruggink (Leandro 86), Bouma - Kezman.

September 25

Borussia Dortmund 2 (Koller 6, Amoroso 78)
Auxerre 1 (Mwaruwari 83)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 46,500. **Ref:** Hauge (Nor)
Dortmund: Lehmann - Evanilson, Worns, Metzelder, Heinrich - Reuter, Kehl - Ewerthon (Dede 84), Rosicky (Amoroso 66), Frings (Ricken 74) - Koller.
Auxerre: Cool - Radet, Mexes, Boumsong, Jaures - Tainio, Faye - Lachuer, Kapo, Fadiga - Mwaruwari.

PSV Eindhoven 0
Arsenal 4 (Gilberto Silva 1, Ljungberg 66, Henry 81, 90)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 29,000. **Ref:** Michel (Slk)
PSV: Waterreus - Bogelund, Ooijer, Hofland (Vennegoor of Hesselink 46), Heintze (Lucius 62) - Rommedahl, Van Bommel, Vogel (Leandro 27), Bouma - Bruggink, Kezman.
Arsenal: Seaman - Lauren, Keown (Cygan 10), Campbell, Cole - Wiltord, Vieira, Gilberto Silva, Ljungberg (Toure 86) - Bergkamp (Kanu 80), Henry.

October 2

Auxerre 0
Arsenal 1 (Gilberto Silva 48)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 21,000. **Ref:** De Bleeckere (Blg)
Auxerre: Cool - Radet, Mexes, Boumsong, Jaures - Lachuer (Gonzalez 73), Faye, Tainio (Sirieix 90), Fadiga - Kapo - Mwaruwari.
Arsenal: Seaman - Lauren, Campbell, Cygan, Cole - Wiltord (Luzhnyi 84), Gilberto Silva, Vieira, Toure (Edu 60) - Kanu, Henry (Pennant 58).

PSV Eindhoven 1 (Van der Schaaf 74)
Borussia Dortmund 3 (Koller 21, Rosicky 69, Amoroso 90)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 33,000. **Ref:** Collina (Ita)
PSV: Waterreus - Bogelund, Faber, Ooijer, Bouma - Rommedahl, Vogel, Van Bommel, Van der Schaaf - Kezman (Vennegoor of Hesselink 75), Leandro (Robben 55).
Dortmund: Lehmann - Madouni, Worns, Metzelder, Dede - Reuter (Ricken 90), Frings, Rosicky (Kehl 79), Heinrich - Koller, Ewerthon (Amoroso 65).

GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	3	3	0	0	7	0	9
B Dortmund	3	2	0	1	5	4	6
Auxerre	3	0	1	2	1	3	1
PSV Eindhoven	3	0	1	2	1	7	1

Tue, October 22
Arsenal v Auxerre
Borussia Dortmund v PSV Eindhoven

Wed, October 30
Borussia Dortmund v Arsenal
PSV Eindhoven v Auxerre

Tue, November 12
Arsenal v PSV Eindhoven
Auxerre v Borussia Dortmund

Group B

September 17

Basle (Swi) 2 (H Yakin 50, Rossi 55)
Moscow Spartak (Rus) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 29,500. **Ref:** Larsen (Den)
Basle: Zuberbuhler - Haas, Quennoz, M Yakin, Atouba - Barberis, Cantaluppi, H Yakin (Savic 87), Esposito - Rossi (Tum 75), Gimenez.
Spartak: Cherchesov - Tchuisse, Moises, Kovtun, Kebe - Baranov (Marcelo Silva 56), Koudriashov, Khlestov, Kalinichenko (Mitreski 72) - Beschastnykh, Danishevski (Essien 46).

Valencia (Spa) 2 (Aimar 20, Baraja 38)
Liverpool (Eng) 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 38,000. **Ref:** Fandel (Ger)
Valencia: Canizares - Curro Torres, Ayala, Pellegrino, Carboni - Rufete (Angulo 75), Albelda (De los Santos 84), Baraja, Vicente - Carew, Aimar (Mista 71).
Liverpool: Dudek - Carragher, Diao (Cheyrou 46), Hyypia, Traore - Murphy (Baros 76), Hamann, Gerrard, Riise - Heskey, Diouf (Owen 46). *Sent off: Hamann 77min.*

September 25

Liverpool 1 (Baros 34)
Basle 1 (Rossi 43)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 37,634. **Ref:** Van Egmond (Hol)
Liverpool: Dudek - Carragher, Henchoz, Hyypia, Riise - Murphy, Gerrard, Cheyrou, Heskey (Diouf 71) - Owen (Berger 79), Baros.
Basle: Zuberbuhler - Haas, Quennoz, M Yakin, Atouba - Barberis, Cantaluppi, Esposito - H Yakin (Duruz 67) - Gimenez, Rossi (Tum 74).

Moscow Spartak 0
Valencia 3 (Angulo 6, Mista 71, Sanchez 85)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Bre (Fra)
Spartak: Cherchesov - Tchuisse, Moises, Kovtun (Baranov 46), Mitreski - Khlestov, Kalinichenko, Kebe, Koudriashov - Danishevski (Essien 54), Beschastnykh.
Valencia: Canizares - Curro Torres, Ayala, Pellegrino, Carboni - Angulo (Sanchez 74), Albelda, Baraja, Vicente (Rufete 67) - Aimar, Carew (Mista 58).

October 2

Liverpool 5 (Heskey 7, 89, Cheyrou 15, Hyypia 28, Diao 81)
Moscow Spartak 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 40,812. **Ref:** Hamer (Lux)
Liverpool: Dudek - Carragher, Henchoz (Traore 67), Hyypia, Riise - Gerrard (Diao 76), Hamann, Murphy - Cheyrou (Diouf 82) - Heskey, Owen.
Spartak: Cherchesov - Kebe, Moises, Mitreski, Kovtun (Abramidze 63) - Khlestov (Bezrodny 26), Koudriashov (Marcelo Silva 50), Pavlenko - Kalinichenko - Danishevski, Beschastnykh.

Valencia 6 (Carew 10, 13, Fabio Aurelio 17, Baraja 28, Aimar 58, Mista 60)
Basle 2 (Rossi 46, H Yakin 90)
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Bolognino (Ita)
Valencia: Canizares - Fabio Aurelio, Ayala, Pellegrino, Curro Torres - Albelda, Baraja (Mista 46) - Angulo, Aimar (Sanchez 71), Vicente (Garrido 60) - Carew.
Basle: Zuberbuhler - Haas, M Yakin, Quennoz (Ergic 62), Atouba - Barberis, Cantaluppi, Esposito (Duruz 79) - H Yakin - Gimenez (Varela 46), Rossi.

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Valencia	3	3	0	0	11	2	9
Basle	3	1	1	1	5	7	4
Liverpool	3	1	1	1	6	3	4
Moscow Spartak	3	0	0	3	0	10	0

Tue, October 22
Basle v Valencia
Moscow Spartak v Liverpool

Wed, October 30
Liverpool v Valencia
Moscow Spartak v Basle

Tue, November 12
Basle v Liverpool
Valencia v Moscow Spartak

Group C

September 17

Genk (Blg) 0
AEK Athens (Gre) 0
Att: 22,500. **Ref:** Plautz (Aut)
Genk: Moons - Vanbeuren, Tomasic, Zokora, Ingrao - Beslija, Skoko, Thijs, Daerden - Sonck, Dagano.
AEK: Chiotis - Borbokis (Petkov 53), Kostenoglou, Wright, Kasapis - Kapsis, Zagorakis, Katsouranis, Tsartas (Maladenis 90) - Nikolaidis, Nalitzis (Lakis 64).

Roma (Ita) 0
Real Madrid (Spa) 3 (Guti 41, 74, Raul 56)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 71,130. **Ref:** Merk (Ger)
Roma: Antonioli - Panucci, Dellas, Samuel, Cufre (Guardiola 46) - Cafu, Tommasi, Emerson, Candela - Montella, Cassano (Delvecchio 64).
Real Madrid: Casillas - Michel Salgado, Hierro, Ivan Helguera, Roberto Carlos - Makelele (McManaman 78), Cambiasso - Figo, Zidane (Solari 70), Raul - Guti.

September 25

AEK Athens 0
Roma 0
Att: 18,000. **Ref:** Barber (Eng)
AEK: Chiotis - Kostenoglou, Wright, Kapsis - Lakis, Zagorakis, Katsouranis, Tsartas (Petkov 85), Kasapis (Georgatos 46) - Nikolaidis, Ivic (Nalitzis 63).
Roma: Antonioli - Panucci, Samuel, Cufre - Cafu, Tommasi, Emerson, Lima, Candela - Batistuta (Cassano 90), Montella.

Real Madrid 6 (Zokora og 44, Michel Salgado 45, Figo pen 55, Guti 64, Celades 74, Raul 76)
Genk 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 65,000. **Ref:** Fisker (Den)
Real Madrid: Casillas - Michel Salgado, Hierro, Ivan Helguera, Roberto Carlos (Raul Bravo 70) - Figo, Celades, Cambiasso (Morientes 67), Solari - Raul (Portillo 76), Guti.
Genk: Moons - Vanbeuren (Seyfo 61), Tomasic, Zokora, Roumani - Beslija (Suzuki 83), Skoko, Wamfor, Daerden - Sonck, Dagano (De Camargo 79).

October 2

AEK Athens 3 (Tsartas 6, Maladenis 25, Nikolaidis 28)
Real Madrid 3 (Zidane 15, 39, Guti 60)
HT: 3-2. **Att:** 11,000. **Ref:** Ivanov (Bul)
AEK: Chiotis - Kostenoglou, Wright, Kapsis - Zagorakis (Centeno 84), Lakis, Katsouranis, Petkov (Maladenis 15), Kasapis - Tsartas (Ivic 84) - Nikolaidis.
Real Madrid: Casillas - Michel Salgado, Ivan Helguera, Pavon, Roberto Carlos - Figo, Makelele, Zidane (Portillo 84), Cambiasso - Raul (Morientes 81), Guti (McManaman 87).

Genk 0
Roma 1 (Cassano 81)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 22,500. **Ref:** Sars (Fra)
Genk: Moons - Wamfor, Tomasic, Zokora, Roumani (Ingrao 85) - Beslija (Schollen 12), Thijs, Skoko, Daerden (Seyfo 68) - Dagano, Sonck. *Sent off: Moons 10min.*
Roma: Antonioli - Panucci, Samuel, Zebina - Cafu (Cassano 46), Tommasi (Tomic 53), Emerson, Lima, Candela - Totti, Batistuta (Montella 68).

GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	3	2	1	0	12	3	7
Roma	3	1	1	1	1	3	4
AEK Athens	3	0	3	0	3	3	3
Genk	3	0	1	2	0	7	1

Tue, October 22
Real Madrid v AEK Athens
Roma v Genk

Wed, October 30
AEK Athens v Genk
Real Madrid v Roma

Tue, November 12
Genk v Real Madrid
Roma v AEK Athens

Group D

September 17

Ajax (Hol) 2 (Ibrahimovic 11, 34)
Lyon (Fra) 1 (Anderson 84)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 37,455. **Ref:** Riley (Eng)
Ajax: Stekelenburg - Trabelsi, Yakubu, Chivu, O'Brien - Galasek (Van Halst 57), Maxwell - Sikora (Pienaar 68), Litmanen, Van der Meyde - Ibrahimovic (Bergdolmo 81). *Sent off: Yakubu 85min.*
Lyon: Coupet - Chanelet (Diarra 79), Edmilson, Cacapa, Brechet - Juninho, Violeau (Laville 46), Carriere, Dhorasoo - Govou (Vairelles 41), Anderson.

Rosenborg (Nor) 2 (Karadas 52, 65)
Internazionale (Ita) 2 (Crespo 33, 79)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 21,040. **Ref:** Fernandez Marin (Spa)
Rosenborg: Arason - Strand (Stensaas 75), Basma, Hoftun, Saarinen - Olsen, Skammelsrud, Berg - Karadas, F Johnsen, Brattbakk.
Inter: Toldo - Cannavaro, Cordoba, Materazzi, Coco - J Zanetti, Dalmat (Emre 63), Almeyda, Morfeo (Recoba 77) - Vieri, Crespo (Adani 88). *Sent off: Cannavaro 69min.*

September 25

Internazionale 1 (Crespo 75)
Ajax 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 45,784. **Ref:** Dougal (Sco)
Inter: Toldo - J Zanetti, Cordoba, Materazzi, Pasquale - Okan (Sergio Conceicao 69), Di Biagio (Almeyda 65), Emre (Recoba 52), Dalmat - Vieri, Crespo.
Ajax: Stekelenburg (Timmer 23) - Trabelsi, Pasanen (Hossam 80), Chivu, Van Damme - Galasek, Litmanen, Maxwell - Sikora, Ibrahimovic, Van der Meyde (Pienaar 76).

Lyon 5 (Carriere 6, Vairelles 26, 45, Anderson 34, Luyindula 75)
Rosenborg 0
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 37,505. **Ref:** Wack (Ger)
Lyon: Coupet - Deflandre, Muller, Cacapa, Brechet - Dhorasoo (Delmotte 78), Violeau, Diarra - Carriere - Anderson (Juninho 67), Vairelles (Luyindula 72).
Rosenborg: Arason - Stensaas (Ludvigsen 72), Basma, Hoftun, Saarinen (Blixt 83) - Olsen (Sibaya 65), Skammelsrud, Berg - Karadas, F Johnsen, Brattbakk.

October 2

Internazionale 1 (Cannavaro 73)
Lyon 2 (Govou 21, Anderson 60)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 31,448. **Ref:** Mejuto Gonzalez (Spa)
Inter: Toldo - Cordoba, Materazzi, Cannavaro - J Zanetti, Di Biagio (Sergio Conceicao 69), Almeyda, Coco (Pasquale 86) - Dalmat (Morfeo 61), Recoba - Crespo.
Lyon: Coupet - Edmilson - Muller, Cacapa, Brechet - Dhorasoo, Violeau, Diarra - Carriere (Juninho 88) - Anderson (Laville 77), Govou (Vairelles 90).

Rosenborg 0
Ajax 0
Att: 21,000. **Ref:** Benes (Cze)
Rosenborg: Arason - Olsen, Hoftun, Basma, Saarinen - Strand, Skammelsrud, Berg - Karadas, Brattbakk (George 40), F Johnsen (Enerly 35).
Ajax: Didulica - Trabelsi, Bergdolmo, Chivu, Van Damme - Galasek, Van Halst (Winter 69), Wamberto, Witschge (Maxwell 79) - Ibrahimovic (Van der Meyde 69), Hossam.

GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lyon	3	2	0	1	8	3	6
Internazionale	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Ajax	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
Rosenborg	3	0	2	1	2	7	2

Tue, October 22
Ajax v Rosenborg
Lyon v Internazionale

Wed, October 30
Internazionale v Rosenborg
Lyon v Ajax

Tue, November 12
Ajax v Internazionale
Rosenborg v Lyon

Group E

September 18

Kyiv Dynamo (Ukr) 2 (Shatskikh 17, Khatskevich 62)
Newcastle United (Eng) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 42,500. **Ref:** Iturralde Gonzalez (Spa)
Dynamo: Reva - Peev, Sablic, Ghioane, Nesmachnyi - Husin, Leko, Cernat, Khatskevich (Gavrancic 75) - Leandro (Melaschenko 56), Shatskikh.
Newcastle: Given - Griffin, O'Brien, Dabizas, Bernard (Robert 69) - Dyer, Hughes (Solano 69), Speed, Hugo Viana - Bellamy, Shearer (Ameobi 79).

Feyenoord (Hol) 1 (Van Hooijdonk 75)
Juventus (Ita) 1 (Camoranesi 32)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Lopez Nieto (Spa)
Feyenoord: Zoetebier - Gyan (Bombarda 70), Paauwe, Van Wonderen, Van Haaren - Song, Emerton, Ono, Pardo (Kalou 55) - Van Hooijdonk, Buffel.
Juventus: Buffon - Thuram, Ferrara, Montero, Birindelli - Camoranesi (Baiocco 81), Tacchinardi, Davids (Fresi 65), Nedved - Di Vaio, Del Piero (Salas 76).

September 24

Juventus 5 (Di Vaio 14, 52, Del Piero 22, Davids 67, Nedved 79)
Kyiv Dynamo 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 26,876. **Ref:** Stark (Ger)
Juventus: Buffon - Thuram, Ferrara, Montero (Baiocco 76), Moretti - Camoranesi, Davids, Tacchinardi (Tudor 68) - Nedved - Di Vaio (Trezeguet 72), Del Piero.
Dynamo: Reva - Peev, Sablic, Ghioane, Gavrancic, Nesmachnyi - Leko, Husin, Cernat, Khatskevich (Melaschenko 71) - Shatskikh.

Newcastle United 0
Feyenoord 1 (Pardo 4)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 40,540. **Ref:** Colombo (Fra)
Newcastle: Given - Griffin, O'Brien, Dabizas, Hughes - Solano, Speed, Dyer, Robert - Bellamy (Lua Lua 77), Shearer.
Feyenoord: Zoetebier - Emerton, Van Wonderen, Paauwe, Rzasa - Song, Bosvelt, Ono, Pardo (Lurling 82) - Buffel - Van Hooijdonk.

October 1

Feyenoord 0
Kyiv Dynamo 0
Att: 41,200. **Ref:** Ovrebo (Nor)
Feyenoord: Zoetebier - Emerton, Paauwe, De Haan, Rzasa - Song, Bosvelt, Ono, Pardo (Van Persie 55) - Van Hooijdonk, Buffel (Kalou 66).
Dynamo: Reva - Bodnar, Gavrancic, Ghioane, Nesmachnyi - Peev, Husin, Cernat (Diogo Rincon 84), Melaschenko, Khatskevich (Leko 63) - Shatskikh.

Juventus 2 (Del Piero 66, 81)
Newcastle United 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 41,424. **Ref:** Temmink (Hol)
Juventus: Buffon - Thuram, Iuliano, Montero, Moretti - Baiocco (Fresi 86), Tudor (Birindelli 84), Davids - Nedved - Di Vaio (Trezeguet 17), Del Piero.
Newcastle: Given - Griffin (Ameobi 79), O'Brien, Dabizas, Hughes - Solano (Hugo Viana 70), Speed, Jenas (Lua Lua 80), Robert - Dyer - Shearer.

GROUP E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	3	2	1	0	8	1	7
Feyenoord	3	1	2	0	2	1	5
Kyiv Dynamo	3	1	1	1	2	5	4
Newcastle	3	0	0	3	0	5	0

Wed, October 23
Kyiv Dynamo v Feyenoord
Newcastle United v Juventus

Tue, October 29
Juventus v Feyenoord
Newcastle United v Kyiv Dynamo

Wed, November 13
Kyiv Dynamo v Juventus
Feyenoord v Newcastle United

Group F

September 18

Manchester United (Eng) 5 (Giggs 10, Solskjaer 35, Veron 46, Van Nistelrooy 54, Forlan pen 89)
Maccabi Haifa (Isr) 2 (Katan 8, Cohen 85)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 63,439. **Ref:** Allaerts (Blg)
Man Utd: Barthez (Ricardo 67) - O'Shea, Ferdinand, Blanc, Silvestre - Beckham, Veron, P Neville, Giggs (Forlan 56) - Van Nistelrooy (Pugh 75), Solskjaer.
Maccabi: Awat - Harazi (Cohen 74), Benado, Ejiofor, Keisi - Rosso, Badir, Almoshnino (Zano 56), Pralija, Zandberg (Israilevich 65) - Katan.

Olympiakos (Gre) 6 (Kleine og 27, Giannakopoulos 38, Djordjevic 44, pen 64, 73, Zetterberg 87)
Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) 2 (Schneider 22, pen 78)
HT: 3-1. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Dauden Ibanez (Spa)
Olympiakos: Eleftheropoulos - Patsatzoglou, Anatolakis, Antzas, Venetidis - Karembeu, Ze Elias - Giannakopoulos (Ofori-Quaye 83), Zetterberg, Djordjevic (Edu Dracena 90) - Giovanni (Alexandris 86).
Leverkusen: Juric - Balitsch (Ojigwe 71), Kleine (Brdaric 51), Lucio, Zivkovic - Ramelow, Vranjes - Schneider, Basturk, Simak - Neuville.

September 24

Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Berbatov 52)
Manchester United 2 (Van Nistelrooy 31, 44)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 22,500. **Ref:** Wegereef (Hol)
Leverkusen: Juric - Zivkovic, Ramelow, Lucio - Balitsch (Franca 81), Babic, Ojigwe (Simak 64) - Schneider, Basturk, Brdaric - Neuville (Berbatov 22).
Man Utd: Barthez - O'Shea (G Neville 46), Ferdinand, Blanc, Silvestre - Beckham, P Neville, Butt, Veron (Solskjaer 88), Giggs - Van Nistelrooy (Forlan 46).

Maccabi Haifa 3 (Aiyegbeni pen 27, 60, 86)
Olympiakos 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 17,000. **Ref:** De Santis (Ita)
Played in Nicosia, Cyprus
Maccabi: Awat - Harazi (Zano 52), Benado, Ejiofor, Keisi - Pralija (Israilevich 87), Rosso, Badir, Zutautas - Katan (Zandberg 79), Aiyegbeni.
Olympiakos: Eleftheropoulos - Patsatzoglou, Antzas, Venetidis, Giannakopoulos (Ofori-Quaye 80) - Anatolakis, Karembeu, Ze Elias (Alexandris 55), Zetterberg (Niniadis 71), Djordjevic - Giovanni.

October 1

Maccabi Haifa 0
Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Babic 31, 64)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** Granat (Pol)
Played in Nicosia, Cyprus
Maccabi: Awat - Zano, Benado, Ejiofor, Keisi - Badir (Zandberg 60), Zutautas, Pralija (Israilevich 70), Katan (Cohen 60) - Rosso, Aiyegbeni.
Leverkusen: Butt - Zivkovic, Ramelow, Lucio, Ojigwe - Schneider (Bierofka 85), Balitsch - Neuville, Basturk, Babic (Vranjes 77) - Brdaric (Berbatov 70).

Manchester United 4 (Giggs 19, 66, Veron 26, Solskjaer 77)
Olympiakos 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 66,902. **Ref:** Veissiere (Fra)
Man Utd: Barthez - G Neville, Blanc (O'Shea 69), Ferdinand, Silvestre - Beckham, Veron, Butt, Giggs (Fortune 69) - Scholes (Forlan 77), Solskjaer.
Olympiakos: Eleftheropoulos - Amanatidis (Patsatzoglou 73), Anatolakis, Antzas, Venetidis - Giannakopoulos (Edu Dracena 46), Karembeu, Ze Elias, Djordjevic - Zetterberg - Ofori-Quaye (Alexandris 59). *Sent off: Ze Elias 45min.*

GROUP F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manchester Utd	3	3	0	0	11	3	9
Maccabi Haifa	3	1	0	2	5	7	3
Olympiakos	3	1	0	2	6	9	3
Bayer Leverkusen	3	1	0	2	5	8	3

Wed, October 23
Bayer Leverkusen v Maccabi Haifa
Olympiakos v Manchester United

Tue, October 29
Bayer Leverkusen v Olympiakos
Maccabi Haifa v Manchester United

Wed, November 13
Manchester United v Bayer Leverkusen
Olympiakos v Maccabi Haifa

Group G

September 18

Bayern Munich (Ger) 2 (Salihamidzic 57, Elber 64)
Deportivo La Coruna (Spa) 3 (Makaay 12, 45, 77)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Poll (Eng)
Bayern: Kahn - Sagnol (Hargreaves 46), Kuffour, Linke, Tarnat - Salihamidzic, Jeremies (N Kovac 78), Ballack, Ze Roberto (Zickler 81) - Elber, Pizarro.
Deportivo: Juanmi - Hector, Donato, Naybet, Romero - Mauro Silva - Victor (Acuna 71), Sergio, Valeron, Fran (Capdevila 67) - Makaay (Luque 86).

Milan (Ita) 2 (Inzaghi 57, 61)
Lens (Fra) 1 (Moreira 75)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 72,000. **Ref:** Vassaras (Gre)
Milan: Dida - Simic, Nesta, Maldini, Kaladze - Gattuso, Pirlo, Seedorf, Rui Costa (Tomasson 82) - Rivaldo (Ambrosini 77) - Inzaghi (Laursen 85).
Lens: Warmuz - Bak, Song, Coulibaly - Coly, Blanchard (Bakari 84), Diop, Thomert (Utaka 64), Diagne-Faye (Keita 64) - Sibierski, Moreira.

September 24

Deportivo La Coruna 0
Milan 4 (Seedorf 17, Inzaghi 33, 55, 62)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Milton Nielsen (Den)
Deportivo: Juanmi - Scaloni, Cesar, Naybet, Romero - Acuna (Duscher 62), Mauro Silva (Donato 79) - Victor, Sergio, Fran (Diego Tristan 62) - Makaay.
Milan: Dida - Simic, Nesta, Maldini, Kaladze - Gattuso, Pirlo (Ambrosini 64), Rui Costa (Dalla Bona 83), Seedorf - Rivaldo - Inzaghi (Tomasson 80).

Lens 1 (Utaka 76)
Bayern Munich 1 (Linke 23)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 36,500. **Ref:** Cortez Batista (Por)
Lens: Warmuz - Coly, Bak, Song, Rool - Blanchard (Bakari 68), Diop, Keita - Sibierski - Utaka, Moreira.
Bayern: Kahn - Salihamidzic, R Kovac, Linke, Tarnat (Kuffour 77) - Jeremies - Hargreaves, Ballack, Ze Roberto - Pizarro, Elber (Zickler 73).

October 1

Bayern Munich 1 (Pizarro 54)
Milan 2 (Inzaghi 52, 84)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Dallas (Sco)
Bayern: Kahn - Salihamidzic, R Kovac, Linke, Tarnat (Zickler 87) - Jeremies - Hargreaves, Ballack, Ze Roberto - Elber, Pizarro.
Milan: Dida - Simic, Nesta, Maldini, Kaladze, Gattuso, Pirlo (Serginho 77), Seedorf - Rui Costa (Laursen 87) - Rivaldo (Ambrosini 66), Inzaghi.

Deportivo La Coruna 3 (Makaay 49, Capdevila 79, Cesar 84)
Lens 1 (Moreira 10)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 28,000. **Ref:** Pedersen (Nor)
Deportivo: Molina - Hector (Sergio 46), Naybet, Cesar, Romero - Scaloni, Mauro Silva, Duscher (Capdevila 70), Fran - Diego Tristan (Luque 76), Makaay.
Lens: Warmuz - Coly, Bak (Coulibaly 65), Song, Rool - Coridon, Blanchard, Pedron (Diagne-Faye 76) - Sibierski (Bakari 84) - Utaka, Moreira.

GROUP G

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Milan	3	3	0	0	8	2	9
Dep La Coruna	3	2	0	1	6	7	6
Bayern Munich	3	0	1	2	4	6	1
Lens	3	0	1	2	3	6	1

Wed, October 23
Lens v Deportivo La Coruna
Milan v Bayern Munich

Tue, October 29
Deportivo La Coruna v Bayern Munich
Lens v Milan

Wed, November 13
Bayern Munich v Lens
Milan v Deportivo La Coruna

Group H

September 18

Barcelona (Spa) 3 (Luis Enrique 5, Mendieta 40, Saviola 44)
Club Brugge (Blg) 2 (Simons pen 22, Englebert 85)
HT: 3-1. **Att:** 70,000. **Ref:** Fleischer (Ger)
Barcelona: Victor Valdes - Puyol, De Boer, Fernando - Mendieta (Rochemback 76), Xavi, Cocu, Motta - Saviola, Kluivert, Luis Enrique (Riquelme 73).
Brugge: Verlinden - Maertens, De Cock, Spilar, Van der Heyden (Stoica 56) - Englebert, Simons, Martens (Ceh 71), Serebrennikov (Lesnjak 46) - Verheyen, Mendoza.

Lokomotiv Moscow (Rus) 0
Galatasaray (Tur) 2 (Sarr 72, Arif 81)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Busacca (Swi)
Lokomotiv: Ovchinnikov - Pachinin (Sennikov 60), Ignashevich, Nizhegorodov - Evseev, Loskov, Maminov, Drozdov, Lekgetho - Julio Cesar (Adamo 74), Buznikin (Pimenov 46).
Galatasaray: Mondragon - Umit Davala, Bulent Korkmaz, Almaguer, Hakan Unsal - Joao Batista, Jorge Felipe, Ergun, Ayhan (Fabio Pinto 46) - Arif (Emre Asik 84), Hasan Sas (Sarr 70).

September 24

Club Brugge 0
Lokomotiv Moscow 0
Att: 26,000. **Ref:** Gomes Costa (Por)
Brugge: Verlinden - De Cock, Spilar (Clement 61), Maertens, Van der Heyden - Englebert, Serebrennikov, Simons, Verheyen - Mendoza (Stoica 66), Lange.
Lokomotiv: Ovchinnikov - Sennikov, Ignashevich, Nizhegorodov, Pimenov - Lekgetho, Maminov (Obradovic 46), Loskov, Evseev - Buznikin (Sirkhayev 46), Julio Cesar (Obiorah 74). *Sent off: Loskov 84min.*

Galatasaray 0
Barcelona 2 (Kluivert 27, Luis Enrique 59)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 28,000. **Ref:** Messina (Ita)
Galatasaray: Mondragon - Sarr (Hasan Sas 46), Bulent Korkmaz, Almaguer, Hakan Unsal - Umit Davala, Jorge Felipe, Joao Batista, Ergun (Umit Karan 80) - Christian (Suat 70), Arif.
Barcelona: Victor Valdes - Puyol, De Boer, Fernando - Mendieta, Xavi (Gabri 74), Cocu, Motta - Luis Enrique, Saviola (Geovanni 83), Kluivert (Gerard 90).

October 1

Galatasaray 0
Club Brugge 0
Att: 20,000. **Ref:** Poulat (Fra)
Galatasaray: Mondragon - Umit Davala, Emre Asik, Bulent Korkmaz (Vedat 83), Hakan Unsal - Joao Batista, Suat, Jorge Felipe (Ayhan 70), Hasan Sas (Baljic 46) - Arif, Umit Karan.
Brugge: Verlinden - Maertens, Simons, Clement - De Cock, Serebrennikov, Stoica (Ceh 87), Englebert, Van der Heyden - Verheyen (Martens 90), Lange (Mendoza 54).

Lokomotiv Moscow 1 (Obiorah 56)
Barcelona 3 (Kluivert 29, Saviola 32, 49)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** McCurry (Sco)
Lokomotiv: Ovchinnikov - Nizhegorodov, Ignashevich, Sennikov - Obradovic, Evseev, Drozdov, Maminov, Lekgetho - Obiorah (Buznikin 66), Pimenov.
Barcelona: Victor Valdes - Puyol, De Boer, Fernando - Mendieta, Xavi, Cocu, Motta - Saviola (Rochemback 86), Kluivert (Gerard 75), Luis Enrique (Geovanni 61).

GROUP H

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	3	3	0	0	8	3	9
Galatasaray	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
Club Brugge	3	0	2	1	2	3	2
Lokomotiv M	3	0	1	2	1	5	1

Wed, October 23
Barcelona v Lokomotiv Moscow
Club Brugge v Galatasaray

Tue, October 29
Club Brugge v Barcelona
Galatasaray v Lokomotiv Moscow

Wed, November 13
Barcelona v Galatasaray
Lokomotiv Moscow v Club Brugge

UEFA CUP

1st rnd, 1st legs

September 17

Aberdeen (Sco) 0
Hertha Berlin (Ger) 0
Ref: Esquinas Torres (Spa)

Austria Wien (Aut) 5 (Janocko 33, 35, Djalminha pen 44, Helstad 85, 87)
Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukr) 1 (Bielik 16)
HT: 3-1. **Ref:** D'Urso (Eng)
Sent off: Zubov (Shakhtar) 49min

Bordeaux (Fra) 6 (Sommeil 23, Dugarry 36, Feindouno 61, Pauleta pen 67, P Vavrik og 78, Darcheville 89)
Matador Puchov (Slk) 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Hansson (Swe)

Leixoes (Por) 2 (Brito 4, Detinho 52)
PAOK Salonika (Gre) 1 (Kukielka 25)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Ceferin (Sln)

Viktoria Zizkov (Cze) 2 (Pikl 6, Straceny 59)
Rangers (Sco) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Rodriguez Santiago (Spa)

Vitesse Arnhem (Hol) 1 (Peeters 61)
Rapid Bucharest (Rom) 1 (Iencsi 90)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Ersoy (Tur)

September 19

AIK Stockholm (Swe) 3 (Nordin 19, A Andersson 67, Rubarth 75)
Fenerbahce (Tur) 3 (Revivo 16, Johnson 26, Stevic 39)
HT: 1-3. **Ref:** Bossen (Hol)

Anderlecht (Blg) 0
Stabaek (Nor) 1 (Michelsen 10)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Levi (Isr)

Ankaragucu (Tur) 1 (Niculescu 31)
Alaves (Spa) 2 (Astudillo 45, Ruben Navarro 80)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Rosetti (Ita)

APOEL Nicosia (Cyp) 2 (Sztipanovics 34, Hachatryan 70)
Grazer AK (Aut) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Kliuchnikov (Rus)

Besiktas (Tur) 2 (Pancu 31, Ahmet 33)
Sarajevo (Bos) 2 (Obuca 63, Osmanhodzic 79)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Leuba (Swi)

Blackburn Rovers (Eng) 1 (Grabbi 25)
CSKA Sofia (Bul) 1 (Dimitrov 22)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Coue (Fra)
Sent off: Tomovski (CSKA) 75min

Celta Vigo (Spa) 2 (Catanha 71, McCarthy 76)
OB Odense (Den) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Tudor (Rom)

Celtic (Sco) 8 (Larsson 15, 23, 29, Petrov 27, Sutton 35, Lambert 50, Hartson 71, Valgaeren 82)
Suduva (Lit) 1 (Radzinevicius 90)
HT: 5-0. **Ref:** Liba (Cze)

Chelsea (Eng) 2 (Hasselbaink 44, De Lucas 68)
Viking Stavanger (Nor) 1 (Wright 90)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Tokat (Tur)

FC Copenhagen (Den) 0
Djurgardens (Swe) 0
Ref: Kos (Sln)

CSKA Moscow (Rus) 1 (Popov 67)
Parma (Ita) 1 (Mutu 53)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Kasnaferis (Gre)

Denizlispor (Tur) 2 (Mustafa 10, pen 67)
Lorient (Fra) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Freeland (Sco)

Dinamo Zagreb (Cro) 6 (Maric 9, Mitu 19, Olic 47, Polovanec 76, Petrovic 83, 85)
Zalaegerszeg (Hun) 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Douros (Gre)

Excelsior Mouscron (Blg) 2 (Mpenza 72, pen 90)
Slavia Prague (Cze) 2 (Vachousek 41, Petrous 48)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Koren (Isr)
Sent off: Bejbl (Slavia) 90min

Ferencvaros (Hun) 4 (Tokoli 10, 90, Lipcsei 30, Dragoner 76)
Kocaelispor (Tur) 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Ivanov (Rus)

Gomel (Bls) 1 (Ivanov 61)
Schalke (Ger) 4 (Sand 59, Varela 67, Poulsen 73, Rodriguez 75)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Slupik (Pol)

Grasshopper (Swi) 3 (Baturina 6, Barijho 44, Nunez 53)
Zenit St Petersburg (Rus) 1 (Kerzhakov 33)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** Bozinovski (Mac)

Hajduk Split (Cro) 0
Fulham (Eng) 1 (Malbranque 50)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Carmona Mendez (Spa)

Ipswich Town (Eng) 1 (Armstrong 56)
Sartid (Yug) 1 (Mirosavljevic 32)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Mikulski (Pol)
Sent off: Kekezovic (Sartid) 90min

Iraklis (Gre) 4 (Mieciel 45, Stoltidis 49, Gonias 52, 87)
Anorthosis Famagusta (Cyp) 2 (Neophytou 61, pen 90)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Nobs (Swi)

Karnten (Aut) 0
Hapoel Tel Aviv (Isr) 4 (Halmai 35, Welton 67, Gershon 75, Udi 88)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Vollquartz (Den)

Lazio (Ita) 4 (Manfredini 45, Claudio Lopez 52, Inzaghi 68, Cesar 69)
Xanthi (Gre) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Siric (Cro)

Leeds United (Eng) 1 (Smith 80)
Metalurh Zaporizhzhya (Ukr) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Vuorela (Fin)

Legia Warsaw (Pol) 4 (Zielinski 19, Vukovic 27, Svitlica 58, 70)
Utrecht (Hol) 1 (Van Mol 47)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Underhill (Sco)
Sent off: Vreven (Utrecht) 77min

Levski Sofia (Bul) 4 (Simonovic 6, 35, Telkiyski 51, 57)
Brondby (Den) 1 (Madsen 19)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** Stredak (Slk)
Sent off: Madsen (Brondby) 90min

Litex Lovech (Bul) 0
Panathinaikos (Gre) 1 (Jelenkovic og 72)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Berntsen (Nor)

Maccabi Tel Aviv (Isr) 1 (Dago 34)
Boavista (Por) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Huyghe (Blg)
Played in Sofia, Bulgaria

Metalurh Donetsk (Ukr) 2 (Tchoutang 39, 51)
Werder Bremen (Ger) 2 (Lisztes 11, Verlaat 13)
HT: 1-2. **Ref:** Braamhaar (Hol)

Midtjylland (Den) 1 (Laursen 88)
Varteks (Cro) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Khudiev (Aze)

National Bucharest (Rom) 3 (Curt 7, Ilie pen 29, Olah 61)
Heerenveen (Hol) 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Loizou (Cyp)

Paris Saint-Germain (Fra) 3 (Ronaldinho 13, Pochettino 24, Cardetti 44)
Ujpest (Hun) 0
HT: 3-0. **Ref:** Gallagher (Eng)

FC Porto (Por) 6 (Jankauskas 20, 56, Derlei 27, Maniche 55, Helder Postiga 69, 89)
Polonia Warsaw (Pol) 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Albrecht (Ger)

Primorje (Sln) 0
Wisla Krakow (Pol) 2 (Uche 12, Kuzba 54)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Mendes Pratas (Por)

Red Star Belgrade (Yug) 0
Chievo (Ita) 0
Ref: Duhamel (Fra)

Servette (Swi) 2 (Obradovic 27, Frei 59)
Amica Wronki (Pol) 3 (Krol 62, 85, Zienczuk 70)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Weiner (Ger)

Slovan Liberec (Cze) 3 (Nezmar 18, Zboncak 25, Gyan 60)
Dinamo Tbilisi (Geo) 2 (Daraselia 48, Anchabadze 66)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Kostadinov (Bul)

Sparta Prague (Cze) 3 (Pospisil 40, Baranek 63, Poborsky 75)
Siroki Brijeg (Bos) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** McDonald (Sco)

Sporting Lisbon (Por) 1 (Tonito 25)
Partizan Belgrade (Yug) 3 (Hugo og 11, Delibasic 35, Iliev 78)
HT: 1-2. **Ref:** Treossi (Ita)

Sturm Graz (Aut) 5 (Wetl 37, Szabics 50, Dag 52, Mujiri 57, 59)
Livingston (Sco) 2 (Zarate 90, Lovell 90)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Shebek (Ukr)

Stuttgart (Ger) 4 (Amanatidis 22, Kuranyi 33, 40, Hieb pen 58)
Ventspils (Lat) 1 (Rimkus 65)
HT: 3-0. **Ref:** Salomir (Rom)

Zeljeznicar (Bos) 0
Malaga (Spa) 0
Ref: Messner (Aut)

Zimbru Chisinau (Mol) 0
Real Betis (Spa) 2 (Alfonso 31, Dinu og 45)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Wildhaber (Swi)

1st rnd, 2nd legs

October 1

Amica Wronki 1 (Burkhardt 60)
Servette 2 (Frei 35, 88)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Delevic (Yug)
Agg 4-4. Amica on away goals

Hertha Berlin 1 (Preetz 89)
Aberdeen 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Gilewski (Pol)
Sent off: Neuendorf (Hertha) 39min; Deloumeaux (Aberdeen) 67min
Hertha 1-0 on agg

Shakhtar Donetsk 1 (Lewandowski 78)
Austria Wien 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** McKeon (Ire)
Austria 5-2 on agg

October 3

Alaves 3 (Ivan Alonso 6, Turiel 49, 75)
Ankaragucu 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Corpodean (Rom)
Alaves 5-1 on agg

Anorthosis Famagusta 3 (Ketsbaia 10, Majak 57, Xiourouppas 82)
Iraklis 1 (Fofonka 32)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Pucek (Cze)
Agg 5-5. Anorthosis on away goals

Boavista 4 (Strool og 6, Jocivalter 31, 90, Serginho 53)
Maccabi Tel Aviv 1 (Torjman 76)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Brugger (Aut)
Sent off: Strool (Maccabi) 58min
Boavista 4-2 on agg

Brondby 1 (Jonson 73)
Levski Sofia 1 (Ivankov pen 9)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Chykun (Bls)
Levski 5-2 on agg

Chievo 0
Red Star Belgrade 2 (Gvozdenovic 70, Milovanovic 86)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Baskakov (Rus)
Red Star 2-0 on agg

CSKA Sofia 3 (Gargorov 66, pen 89, Agnaldo 71)
Blackburn Rovers 3 (Thompson 30, Ostenstad 56, Duff 57)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Yefet (Isr)
Sent off: Dimitrov (CSKA) 90min
Agg 4-4. Blackburn on away goals

Dinamo Tbilisi 0
Slovan Liberec 1 (Zboncak 64)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Lajuks (Lat)
Liberec 4-2 on agg

Djurgardens 3 (Albrechtsen og 13, Elmander 45, Kallstrom pen 90)
FC Copenhagen 1 (Zivkovic 88)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Godulyan (Ukr)
Djurgardens 3-1 on agg

Fenerbahce 3 (Ali Gunes 29, Johnson 74, Serhat 90)
AIK Stockholm 1 (Hoch 30)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Frohlich (Ger)
Fenerbahce 6-4 on agg

Fulham 2 (Marlet 19, Malbranque pen 44)
Hajduk Split 2 (Dolonga 6, Vejic 39)
HT: 2-2. **Ref:** Farina (Ita)
Fulham 3-2 on agg

Grazer AK 1 (Ehmann 43)
APOEL Nicosia 1 (Daskalakis 84)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Dobrinov (Bul)
APOEL 3-1 on agg

Hapoel Tel Aviv 0
Karnten 1 (Oberleitner 44)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Garibian (Fra)
Hapoel 4-1 on agg

Heerenveen 2 (Hansson 53, Denneboom 66)
National Bucharest 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Borovilos (Gre)
National 3-2 on agg

Kocaelispor 0
Ferencvaros 1 (Lipcsei 31)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Almeida Costa (Por)
Ferencvaros 5-0 on agg

Livingston 4 (Wilson pen 30, 90, Xausa 54, Andrews 77)
Sturm Graz 3 (Szabics 45, Mujiri 47, Masudi 53)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Olsen (Nor)
Sturm 8-6 on agg

Lorient 3 (Kroupi 44, Guel 47, Gauvin 88)
Denizlispor 1 (Martini og 20)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Paraty da Silva (Por)
Sent off: Cavalli (Lorient) 90min
Agg 3-3. Denizlispor on away goals

Malaga 1 (Dely Valdes pen 5)
Zeljeznicar 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Gadosi (Slk)
Sent off: Karic (Zeljeznicar) 81min
Malaga 1-0 on agg

Matador Puchov 1 (Muzlay 45)
Bordeaux 4 (Savio 14, Darcheville 42, 88, Feindouno 67)
HT: 1-2. **Ref:** Halsey (Eng)
Bordeaux 10-1 on agg

Metalurh Zaporizhzhya 1 (Modebadze 24)
Leeds United 1 (Barmby 77)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Bosat (Tur)
Sent off: Milosavljevic (Metalurh) 80min
Leeds 2-1 on agg

OB Odense 1 (Derveld 62)
Celta Vigo 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Irvine (NI)
Sent off: Derveld (OB) 65min
Celta 2-1 on agg

Panathinaikos 2 (Warzycha 110, 120)
Litex Lovech 1 (Graf 90)
Aet. **HT:** 0-0. **90mins:** 0-1. **Ref:** Layec (Fra)
Sent off: Zagorcic (Lovech) 90min
Panathinaikos 3-1 on agg

PAOK Salonika 4 (Salpingidis 14, Okkas 16, 80, Koutsopoulos 56)
Leixoes 1 (Pedras 81)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Steinborn (Ger)
PAOK 5-3 on agg

Parma 3 (Adriano 8, Mutu 66, 90)
CSKA Moscow 2 (Semak 37, 43)
HT: 1-2. **Ref:** Rennie (Eng)
Parma 4-3 on agg

Partizan Belgrade 3 (Delibasic 78, Zivkovic 110, Cakar 117)
Sporting Lisbon 3 (Tonito 13, Kutuzov 55, Contreras 82)
Aet. **HT:** 0-1. **90mins:** 1-3. **Ref:** Stuchlik (Aut)
Sent off: Zivkovic (Partizan) 120min
Partizan 6-4 on agg

Polonia Warsaw 2 (Lukasiewicz 67, Kus 81)
FC Porto 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Sundell (Swe)
Porto 6-2 on agg

Rangers 3 (De Boer 42, 58, McCann 97)
Viktoria Zizkov 1 (Licka 101)
Aet. **HT:** 1-0. **90mins:** 2-0. **Ref:** Briakos (Gre)
Sent off: Buryan (Zizkov) 117min
Agg 3-3. Zizkov on away goals

Rapid Bucharest 0
Vitesse Arnhem 1 (Peeters 62)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Rodomonti (Ita)
Vitesse 2-1 on agg

Real Betis 2 (Tais 23, Casas 29)
Zimbru Chisinau 1 (Cebotari pen 31)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** Blareau (Blg)
Betis 4-1 on agg

Sarajevo 0
Besiktas 5 (Pancu 5, Ibrahim 42, Ahmet Dursun pen 70, Yasin 83, Ali Begecarslan 84)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Juhos (Hun)
Besiktas 7-2 on agg

Sartid 0
Ipswich Town 1 (M Bent pen 9)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Medina Cantalejo (Spa)
Ipswich 2-1 on agg

Schalke 4 (Wilmots 10, Hanke 63, 72, Kmetsch 67)
Gomel 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Ingvarsson (Swe)
Schalke 8-1 on agg

Siroki Brijeg 0
Sparta Prague 1 (Jarosik 28)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Poulsen (Den)
Sparta 4-0 on agg

Slavia Prague 5 (T Dosek 3, 40, Gedeon 8, Vachousek 53, Adauto 80)
Excelsior Mouscron 1 (Muller og 83)
HT: 3-0. **Ref:** Kapitanis (Cyp)
Slavia 7-3 on agg

Stabaek 1 (Wilhelmsson 5)
Anderlecht 2 (De Bilde 13, MacDonald 56)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Radoman (Yug)
Sent off: Stenvoll (Stabaek) 90min
Agg 2-2. Anderlecht on away goals

Suduva 0
Celtic 2 (Fernandez 13, Thompson 25)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Bede (Hun)
Celtic 10-1 on agg

Ujpest 0
Paris Saint-Germain 1 (Benachour 60)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Vidlak (Cze)
PSG 4-0 on agg

Utrecht 1 (Kuijt 43)
Legia Warsaw 3 (Kucharski 7, Svitlica 63, pen 69)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Trivkovic (Cro)
Legia 7-2 on agg

Varteks 1 (Mumlek 86)
Midtjylland 1 (Pimpong 67)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Bennett (Eng)
Midtjylland 2-1 on agg

Ventspils 1 (Landyrev 16)
Stuttgart 4 (Tiffert 22, 90, Ganea 53, Amanatidis 88)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Hyytia (Fin)
Stuttgart 8-2 on agg

Viking Stavanger 4 (Berre 8, Kopteff 35, Nevland 60, 88)
Chelsea 2 (Lampard 45, Terry 62)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** Van Hulten (Hol)
Viking 5-4 on agg

Werder Bremen 8 (Verlaat 15, Micoud 43, 47, Borowski 45, 80, Haristeas 51, Klasnic 66, 90)
Metalurh Donetsk 0
HT: 3-0. **Ref:** Hanacsek (Hun)
Werder 10-2 on agg

Wisla Krakow 6 (Zurawski pen 16, 73, Uche 51, Jop 55, Pawel Brozek 74, Stolarczyk 84)
Primorje 1 (Zatkovic 12)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Jakobsson (Ice)
Wisla 8-1 on agg

Xanthi 0
Lazio 0
Ref: Hrinak (Slk)
Sent off: Colonnese (Lazio) 35min
Lazio 4-0 on agg

Zalaegerszeg 1 (Sabo 90)
Dinamo Zagreb 3 (Mitu 13, Olic pen 41, Mujcin 75)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Kaldma (Est)
Dinamo 9-1 on agg

Zenit St Petersburg 2 (Kerzhakov 7, 19)
Grasshopper 1 (Baturina 89)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Erdemir (Tur)
Grasshopper 4-3 on agg

2nd rnd draw

Alaves v Besiktas
Anderlecht v Midtjylland
APOEL Nicosia v Hertha Berlin
Austria Wien v FC Porto
Boavista v Anorthosis Famagusta
Celta Vigo v Viking Stavanger
Celtic v Blackburn Rovers
Dinamo Zagreb v Fulham
Djurgardens v Bordeaux
Fenerbahce v Panathinaikos
Ferencvaros v Stuttgart
Ipswich v Slovan Liberec
Lazio v Red Star Belgrade
Leeds United v Hapoel Tel Aviv
Legia Warsaw v Schalke
Malaga v Amica Wronki
National Bucharest v Paris Saint-Germain
PAOK Salonika v Grasshopper
Parma v Wisla Krakow
Partizan Belgrade v Slavia Prague
Sparta Prague v Denizlispor
Sturm Graz v Levski Sofia
Viktoria Zizkov v Real Betis*
Vitesse Arnhem v Werder Bremen

*1st legs, Oct 31 (*Oct 29); 2nd legs, Nov 14*

AUSTRIA

Aug 17: Bregenz 2 Admira 2; Rapid Wien 1 Grazer AK 1; SV Ried 0 Pasching 1.
Aug 18: Sturm Graz 0 Austria Wien 2; Salzburg 0 Karnten 0.
Aug 24: Austria Wien 3 Bregenz 1; Karnten 0 Rapid Wien 3; Grazer AK 2 Sturm Graz 1; Pasching 2 Admira 0; Salzburg 1 SV Ried 3.
Aug 31: Rapid Wien 2 Salzburg 2; SV Ried 1 Grazer AK 0; Sturm Graz 1 Pasching 3; Admira 0 Austria Wien 3.
Sep 1: Bregenz 2 Karnten 1.
Sep 11: Karnten 2 Sturm Graz 2; Grazer AK 2 Admira 3; Pasching 3 Austria Wien 1; Rapid Wien 0 SV Ried 0; Salzburg 1 Bregenz 3.
Sep 14: Austria Wien 3 Pasching 0; Bregenz 0 Salzburg 0; Sturm Graz 1 Karnten 3; Admira 2 Grazer AK 2.
Sep 15: SV Ried 3 Rapid Wien 1.
Sep 21: Karnten 2 Pasching 0; Grazer AK 2 Bregenz 0; Rapid Wien 1 Sturm Graz 2; SV Ried 1 Austria Wien 1; Salzburg 2 Admira 0.
Sep 27: Austria Wien 3 Karnten 1.
Sep 28: Sturm Graz 3 Salzburg 1; Bregenz 1 SV Ried 1; Admira 0 Rapid Wien 0.
Sep 29: Pasching 1 Grazer AK 1.
Oct 5: Rapid Wien 2 Bregenz 1; Salzburg 3 Pasching 2.
Oct 6: Karnten 4 Admira 1; Grazer AK 0 Austria Wien 4; SV Ried 1 Sturm Graz 2.

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Austria Wien	13	9	3	1	31	8	30
Pasching	13	7	2	4	18	12	23
Sturm Graz	13	7	1	5	22	20	22
Rapid Wien	13	5	5	3	18	12	20
Karnten	13	5	4	4	21	17	19
SV Ried	13	4	4	5	13	15	16
Bregenz	13	2	6	5	13	19	12
Salzburg	13	3	3	7	12	21	12
Admira	13	3	3	7	11	26	12
Grazer AK	13	2	5	6	13	22	11

BELGIUM

Wednesday, September 11

Genk 5 (Dagano 9, 29, Beslija 60, Sonck 77, Thijs pen 79)
Germinal Beerschot 2 (Kpaka 5, Camara 83) Att: 23,000

Friday, September 13

Standard 1 (Arst pen 73)
Club Brugge 2 (Verheyen 15, 62) Att: 18,000

Saturday, September 14

Beveren 0
Lokeren 1 (Kristinsson 72) Att: 6,500

Genk 4 (Dagano 1, Sonck 15, 73, Skoko 62)
Lommel 1 (Dekeler 11) Att: 23,343

Gent 2 (Kaklamanos 57, Kraouche pen 78)
Mons 1 (Joly pen 14) Att: 7,800

Mechelen 0
Lierse 2 (Huysegems 44, De Roeck 57) Att: 8,351

Mouscron 6 (Mpenza 13, 58, 65, Bakadal 27, 45, 47)
Charleroi 0 Att: 9,463

Westerlo 0
St Truiden 3 (Boffin pen 29, Mitrovic 88, 90) Att: 5,000

Sunday, September 15

La Louviere 1 (Klukowski 87)
Germinal Beerschot 1 (Kpaka 67) Att: 4,500

Royal Antwerp 2 (Goots 49, 83)
Anderlecht 1 (Zewlakow 21) Att: 8,500

Saturday, September 21

Charleroi 0
Genk 0 Att: 9,800

Club Brugge 1 (Lange 27)
Gent 0 Att: 20,242

Germinal Beerschot 2 (Bodor 6, Reigel 70)
Beveren 1 (Kaiper 18) Att: 7,100

Lierse 2 (Huysegems 14, Kone 82)
Standard 0 Att: 8,000

Mons 3 (De Vreese 3, Roussel 62, Londo 83)
Royal Antwerp 0 Att: 6,000

St Truiden 5 (Van Geel 10, Mbonabucya 29, 31, Boffin pen 72, Vrancken 89)
Mechelen 1 (Boeka-Lisasi 47) Att: 7,000

Sunday, September 22

Lokeren 4 (Bangoura 46, Kimoto 56, Vidarsson 59, De Beule 80)
Westerlo 0 Att: 5,000

Lommel 0
La Louviere 1 (Tilmant 89) Att: 4,500

Monday, September 23

Anderlecht 6 (Baseggio 6, Tihinen 29, Mornar 36, 77, 80, Zane 61)
Mouscron 3 (Mpenza 4, Bakadal 60, De Vleeschauwer 68) Att: 23,000

Friday, September 27

Charleroi 1 (Dufer pen 78)
Anderlecht 3 (Seol 13, Baseggio 22, 79) Att: 14,166

Saturday, September 28

Beveren 0
Lommel 0 Att: 2,800

Genk 1 (Sonck 76)
La Louviere 0 Att: 23,482

Gent 1 (Vanic pen 85)
Lierse 3 (Mitu 27, 40, Kone 42) Att: 8,755

Mouscron 3 (Zewlakow 21, 58, Claeys 29)
Mons 2 (De Vreese 14, 27) Att: 10,932

Royal Antwerp 2 (Hussaine 11, Leleu 55)
Club Brugge 2 (Lange 19, Clement 50) Att: 10,000

Standard 2 (Vandooren 45, Soderstrom 67)
St Truiden 2 (Van Geel 18, Vandooren og 87) Att: 15,300

Westerlo 2 (Brogno 27, Svoboda 85)
Germinal Beerschot 1 (Huysmans 42) Att: 6,000

Sunday, September 29

Mechelen 2 (Ribus 55, Dosunmu 90)
Lokeren 3 (Bangoura 42, 58, Kristinsson 87) Att: 6,000

Friday, October 4

La Louviere 2 (Kenmogne 67, 82)
Beveren 1 (Boka 76) Att: 3,500

Saturday, October 5

Germinal Beerschot 2 (Huysmans 23, Kpaka 39)
Mechelen 2 (Dosunmu 30, 64) Att: 9,200

Lierse 3 (Huysegems pen 79, 90, Frigard 81)
Royal Antwerp 1 (Pinxten 72) Att: 9,500

Lokeren 3 (Gretarsson pen 38, Bangoura 69, Kimoto 80)
Standard 3 (Goossens 7, Da Silva Moreira 70, Arst 73) Att: 6,000

Lommel 5 (Dekelver 14, 44, Culek 34, 85, Waligora 90)
Westerlo 1 (Pelic 27) Att: 4,000

Mons 4 (Roussel 39, 77, La Placa 70, Joly 90)
Charleroi 1 (Eduardo 56) Att: 8,000

St Truiden 6 (Pereira 10, Mbonabucya 26, 82, Van Geel 31, Hayen 47, Mitrovic 87)
Gent 4 (Kaklamanos 12, 84, Oyawole 20, 48) Att: 9,500

Sunday, October 6

Anderlecht 1 (De Bilde 35)
Genk 1 (Sonck 57) Att: 25,000

Club Brugge 5 (Mendoza 25, 58, Verheyen 65, 81, Stoica 82)
Mouscron 1 (Efoulou 80) Att: 19,416

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Club Brugge	8	7	1	0	21	5	22
Lierse	8	6	1	1	15	5	19
St Truiden	8	5	2	1	26	12	17
Anderlecht	8	5	2	1	21	10	17
Lokeren	8	5	2	1	18	11	17
Genk	8	4	3	1	20	12	15
Mons	8	4	1	3	13	10	13
Mouscron	8	4	1	3	22	20	13
Germinal B	8	3	2	3	15	16	11
La Louviere	8	2	3	3	8	9	9
Royal Antwerp	8	2	3	3	11	15	9
Lommel	8	2	2	4	9	11	8
Gent	8	2	2	4	12	16	8
Westerlo	8	2	0	6	5	19	6
Mechelen	8	1	2	5	7	20	5
Beveren	8	1	1	6	6	16	4
Standard	8	0	3	5	9	18	3
Charleroi	8	0	3	5	7	20	3

LEADING GOALSCORER
7 Seol Ki-hyeun (Anderlecht)

BULGARIA

Aug 16: Rilski Sportist 1 Slavia 3.
Aug 17: Spartak Varna 0 Lokomotiv Plovdiv 1; Naftex 3 Dobrudzha 2; Botev 0 Cherno More 1; Levski 2 Marek 0.
Aug 18: Lokomotiv Sofia 0 CSKA 2; Lovech 3 Chernomorets 2.
Aug 23: Lokomotiv Plovdiv 2 Lokomotiv Sofia 1.
Aug 24: Dobrudzha 1 Spartak Varna 3; Chernomorets 1 Naftex 0; Cherno More 0 Lovech 0; Marek 6 Botev 1; Slavia 2 Levski 5; CSKA 2 Rilski Sportist 0.
Aug 30: Botev 1 Slavia 4.
Aug 31: Rilski Sportist 2 Levski 4; Spartak Varna 3 Chernomorets 0; Lokomotiv Sofia 1 Dobrudzha 0; Naftex 2 Cherno More 1.
Sep 1: Lovech 0 Marek 0; CSKA 1 Lokomotiv Plovdiv 0.
Sep 12: Slavia 1 Lovech 0.
Sep 13: Levski 3 Botev 0; Dobrudzha 0 CSKA 5.
Sep 14: Lokomotiv Plovdiv 2 Rilski Sportist 1; Chernomorets 0 Lokomotiv Sofia 1; Marek 2 Naftex 0.
Sep 15: Cherno More 2 Spartak Varna 1.
Sep 18: Lokomotiv Sofia 5 Dobrudzha 0.
Sep 20: Naftex 3 Slavia 2.
Sep 21: Rilski Sportist 1 Botev 3; Spartak Varna 2 Marek 1; Lokomotiv Sofia 0 Cherno More 0; Lokomotiv Plovdiv 9 Dobrudzha 1.
Sep 22: CSKA 4 Chernomorets 1; Lovech 3 Levski 0.
Sep 27: Levski 1 Naftex 0; Botev 0 Lovech 2.
Sep 28: Dobrudzha 0 Rilski Sportist 0; Chernomorets 1 Lokomotiv Plovdiv 1; Cherno More 0 CSKA 1; Marek 1 Lokomotiv Sofia 0; Slavia 4 Spartak Varna 0.
Oct 4: Lokomotiv Sofia 0 Slavia 0.
Oct 5: Lokomotiv Plovdiv 4 Cherno More 1; Dobrudzha 0 Chernomorets 2; Naftex 1 Botev 2.
Oct 6: Spartak Varna 0 Levski 2; Rilski Sportist 0 Lovech 1; CSKA 5 Marek 2.

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CSKA	8	8	0	0	23	4	24
Levski	8	6	1	1	17	7	19
Lovech	8	5	2	1	11	3	17
Lok Plovdiv	8	5	1	2	20	8	16
Slavia	8	5	1	2	19	10	16
Naftex	8	4	0	4	11	12	12
Marek	8	3	1	4	12	13	10
Chernomorets	8	3	1	4	10	12	10
Lok Sofia	8	2	3	3	8	6	9
Cherno More	8	2	3	3	5	8	9
Spartak Varna	8	3	0	5	10	14	9
Botev	8	2	0	6	7	21	6
Rilski Sportist	8	0	2	6	6	16	2
Dobrudzha	8	0	1	7	4	29	1

CROATIA

Aug 17: Osijek 1 Slaven 2; Pomorac 2 Dinamo 3; Zadar 0 Cibalia 2; Zagreb 2 Sibenik 1.
Aug 18: Hajduk 0 Kamen Ingrad 0; Varteks 2 Rijeka 1.
Aug 24: Sibenik 1 Varteks 3; Kamen Ingrad 1 Zagreb 1; Cibalia 4 Hajduk 1; Dinamo 3 Zadar 1; Slaven 2 Pomorac 1.
Aug 25: Rijeka 0 Osijek 1.
Aug 31: Osijek 2 Pomorac 2; Zadar 1 Slaven 2; Zagreb 0 Cibalia 1; Rijeka 5 Sibenik 1.
Sep 1: Varteks 3 Kamen Ingrad 0; Hajduk 1 Dinamo 0.
Sep 14: Sibenik 1 Osijek 2; Kamen Ingrad 2 Rijeka 1; Dinamo 1 Zagreb 1; Slaven 1 Hajduk 0; Pomorac 1 Zadar 2.
Sep 15: Cibalia 0 Varteks 1.
Sep 21: Osijek 3 Zadar 0; Zagreb 2 Slaven 0; Rijeka 2 Cibalia 1; Sibenik 1 Kamen Ingrad 1.
Sep 22: Hajduk 5 Pomorac 1; Varteks 0 Dinamo 2.
Sep 28: Kamen Ingrad 1 Osijek 0; Cibalia 3 Sibenik 1; Dinamo 2 Rijeka 1; Slaven 2 Varteks 1; Pomorac 1 Zagreb 2; Zadar 0 Hajduk 1.
Oct 5: Zagreb 0 Zadar 0; Rijeka 0 Slaven 1; Kamen Ingrad 1 Cibalia 0.
Oct 6: Sibenik 0 Dinamo 1; Osijek 0 Hajduk 2; Varteks 4 Pomorac 2.

CROATIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dinamo	10	7	2	1	19	8	23
Hajduk	10	7	1	2	14	7	22
Varteks	10	6	0	4	16	10	18
Slaven	10	6	0	4	12	11	18
Cibalia	10	5	2	3	16	10	17
Kamen Ingrad	10	4	5	1	9	8	17
Zagreb	10	4	4	2	12	9	16
Rijeka	10	4	0	6	17	15	12
Osijek	10	3	2	5	11	16	11
Zadar	10	1	3	6	6	16	6
Sibenik	10	1	2	7	9	19	5
Pomorac	10	0	3	7	13	25	3

CZECH REPUBLIC

Aug 23: Sparta 3 Synot 0.
Aug 24: Bohemians 0 Liberec 1; Teplice 1 Slavia 3.
Aug 25: Jablonec 2 Zizkov 1; Zlin 1 Hradec Kralove 1; Pribram 1 Chmel Blsany 2; Olomouc 1 Brno 2.
Aug 26: Ceske Budejovice 2 Ostrava 1.
Aug 28: Pribram 2 Slavia 1.
Aug 31: Brno 1 Sparta 2.
Sep 1: Chmel Blsany 0 Jablonec 0; Hradec Kralove 1 Bohemians 1; Synot 2 Ceske Budejovice 0; Ostrava 1 Pribram 0; Slavia 5 Zlin 1; Zizkov 2 Olomouc 2.
Sep 2: Liberec 2 Teplice 1.
Sep 14: Sparta 1 Chmel Blsany 1; Teplice 2 Zizkov 1; Ceske Budejovice 1 Slavia 3.
Sep 15: Pribram 2 Zlin 1; Olomouc 1 Hradec Kralove 1; Bohemians 2 Ostrava 1; Synot 3 Brno 2.
Sep 16: Jablonec 3 Liberec 3.
Sep 22: Chmel Blsany 1 Bohemians 3; Hradec Kralove 0 Jablonec 0; Zlin 2 Olomouc 1; Brno 1 Teplice 2; Ostrava 1 Synot 0; Zizkov 0 Pribram 0.
Sep 23: Liberec 5 Ceske Budejovice 1; Slavia 0 Sparta 0.
Sep 28: Sparta 0 Pribram 0.
Sep 29: Bohemians 1 Zlin 1; Liberec 0 Ostrava 2; Teplice 2 Hradec Kralove 0; Ceske Budejovice 0 Zizkov 1; Synot 0 Slavia 0; Brno 1 Chmel Blsany 0.
Sep 30: Olomouc 3 Jablonec 0.
Oct 6: Jablonec 3 Bohemians 1; Chmel Blsany 2 Ceske Budejovice 0; Zlin 1 Teplice 0; Pribram 1 Olomouc 0; Ostrava 2 Brno 1.
Oct 7: Hradec Kralove 0 Sparta 2; Slavia 1 Liberec 0; Zizkov 2 Synot 0.

CZECH REPUBLIC

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sparta	9	6	3	0	15	3	21
Slavia	9	5	3	1	18	7	18
Liberec	9	5	2	2	14	8	17
Ostrava	9	5	1	3	14	10	16
Jablonec	9	4	4	1	12	10	16
Zizkov	9	4	3	2	12	9	15
Chmel Blsany	9	3	3	3	8	8	12
Pribram	9	3	3	3	6	6	12
Teplice	9	4	0	5	11	15	12
Olomouc	9	2	4	3	10	9	10
Brno	9	3	1	5	11	13	10
Zlin	9	2	4	3	9	13	10
Bohemians	9	2	2	5	13	18	8
Synot	9	2	2	5	7	13	8
Ceske Budejovice	9	2	0	7	9	21	6
Hradec Kralove	9	0	5	4	6	12	5

DENMARK

Aug 17: Farum 3 Esbjerg 4.
Aug 18: AaB 1 AB 0; Brondby 4 Viborg 0; Midtjylland 2 FC Copenhagen 2; Koge 0 Silkeborg 4; AGF 3 OB 2.
Aug 24: FC Copenhagen 2 Brondby 1.
Aug 25: Esbjerg 3 Midtjylland 2; AB 2 AGF 2; OB 2 Koge 1; Silkeborg 0 Farum 1; Viborg 2 AaB 2.
Aug 31: Koge 2 AGF 0.
Sep 1: AaB 3 FC Copenhagen 0; Brondby 1 Esbjerg 1; Farum 2 OB 1; Midtjylland 2 Silkeborg 0; Viborg 2 AB 1.
Sep 8: Esbjerg 3 FC Copenhagen 0; AB 2 Farum 0; Koge 2 Midtjylland 3; OB 3 AaB 0; Silkeborg 1 Viborg 1; AGF 2 Brondby 2.
Sep 14: Farum 1 Koge 0.
Sep 15: AaB 1 Silkeborg 0; Brondby 2 OB 0; Midtjylland 1 AGF 2; FC Copenhagen 1 AB 0; Viborg 6 Esbjerg 0.
Sep 21: AaB 1 Farum 3.
Sep 22: Brondby 4 Midtjylland 0; Esbjerg 5 OB 0; AB 1 Silkeborg 0; FC Copenhagen 2 AGF 0; Viborg 1 Koge 4.
Sep 28: AGF 1 Viborg 3.
Sep 29: Farum 1 Brondby 2; Midtjylland 1 AB 1; Koge 0 AaB 2; OB 0 FC Copenhagen 1; Silkeborg 1 Esbjerg 1.
Oct 4: AaB 1 AGF 2.
Oct 6: Brondby 1 Koge 2; AB 1 Esbjerg 2; Midtjylland 1 Farum 0; OB 3 Viborg 0; FC Copenhagen 2 Silkeborg 1.

DENMARK

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Copenhagen	11	7	2	2	17	14	23
AaB	11	6	1	4	16	14	19
Esbjerg	11	5	3	3	25	22	18
Brondby	11	5	2	4	22	14	17
OB	11	5	1	5	19	16	16
AGF	11	4	3	4	16	18	15
Farum	11	5	0	6	15	17	15
Midtjylland	11	4	3	4	15	17	15
Viborg	11	3	4	4	20	22	13
Koge	11	4	1	6	18	22	13
AB	11	3	3	5	13	16	12
Silkeborg	11	2	3	6	10	14	9

ENGLAND

Tuesday, September 10

Arsenal 2 (Wiltord 26, Henry 42)
Manchester City 1 (Anelka 29) Att: 37,878

Middlesbrough 3 (Nemeth 17, 66, Maccarone 37)
Sunderland 0 Att: 32,155

Wednesday, September 11

Aston Villa 2 (De la Cruz 70, Moore 83)
Charlton 0 Att: 26,483

Blackburn 2 (Dunn pen 18, Thompson 45)
Chelsea 3 (Gronkjaer 38, Zola 52, 80) Att: 22,999

Fulham 3 (Inamoto 68, Malbranque pen 84, Legwinski 90)
Tottenham 2 (Richards 36, Sheringham 44) Att: 16,757

Liverpool 2 (Murphy 25, Gerrard 49)
Birmingham 2 (Morrison 61, 90) Att: 43,113

Manchester Utd 0
Bolton 1 (Nolan 76) Att: 67,623

Newcastle 0
Leeds 2 (Viduka 5, Smith 87) Att: 51,730

Southampton 1 (Pahars pen 73)
Everton 0 Att: 29,190

West Ham 0
West Brom 1 (Roberts 28) Att: 34,957

Saturday, September 14

Bolton 2 (Gardner 54, Ivan Campo 87)
Liverpool 3 (Baros 45, 72, Heskey 88) Att: 27,238

Charlton 0
Arsenal 3 (Henry 44, Wiltord 67, Edu 88) Att: 26,080

Chelsea 3 (Gudjohnsen 14, 58, Zola 26)
Newcastle 0 Att: 39,746

Everton 2 (Campbell 33, 77)
Middlesbrough 1 (Nemeth 11) Att: 32,240

Leeds 1 (Kewell 67)
Manchester Utd 0 Att: 39,622

Sunderland 0
Fulham 3 (Inamoto 34, Hayles 54, Marlet 78) Att: 35,432

West Brom 1 (Gregan 79)
Southampton 0 Att: 26,383

Sunday, September 15

Manchester City 2 (Anelka 80, Goater 90)
Blackburn 2 (Thompson 26, Cole 54) Att: 34,130

Tottenham 3 (Davies 62, Sheringham pen 70, Gardner 89)
West Ham 2 (Kanoute 66, Sinclair 77) Att: 36,005

Monday, September 16

Birmingham 3 (Morrison 31, Enckelman og 77, Horsfield 83)
Aston Villa 0 Att: 29,505

Saturday, September 21

Arsenal 2 (Henry 28, Kanu 90)
Bolton 1 (Farrelly 47) Att: 37,974

Liverpool 2 (Baros 56, Riise 90)
West Brom 0 Att: 43,830

Manchester Utd 1 (Van Nistelrooy pen 63)
Tottenham 0 Att: 67,611

Middlesbrough 1 (Queudrue 29)
Birmingham 0 Att: 29,869

Newcastle 2 (Bellamy 2, Shearer 39)
Sunderland 0 Att: 52,181

Southampton 0
Charlton 0 Att: 25,714

West Ham 0
Manchester City 0 Att: 35,550

Sunday, September 22

Aston Villa 3 (Hendrie 7, 48, Dublin 85)
Everton 2 (Radzinski 51, Campbell 66) Att: 30,023

Blackburn 1 (Flitcroft 24)
Leeds 0 Att: 25,415

Monday, September 23

Fulham 0
Chelsea 0 Att: 16,503

Saturday, September 28

Birmingham 0
Newcastle 2 (Solano 34, Ameobi 90) Att: 29,072

Bolton 1 (Djorkaeff 90)
Southampton 1 (Bridge 82) Att: 22,692

Charlton 1 (Jensen 43)
Manchester Utd 3 (Scholes 54, Giggs 83, Van Nistelrooy 90) Att: 26,630

Chelsea 2 (Hasselbaink pen 21, Zola 74)
West Ham 3 (Defoe 40, Di Canio 48, 84) Att: 38,929

Everton 2 (Campbell 44, Gravesen 45)
Fulham 0 Att: 34,371

Leeds 1 (Kewell 84)
Arsenal 4 (Kanu 9, 86, Toure 20, Henry 47) Att: 40,199

Manchester City 0
Liverpool 3 (Owen 4, 64, 89) Att: 35,131

Sunderland 1 (Bellion 70)
Aston Villa 0 Att: 40,492

Tottenham 0
Middlesbrough 3 (Maccarone 33, Geremi 55, Job 58) Att: 36,082

Monday, September 30

West Brom 0
Blackburn 2 (Yorke pen 72, Duff 76) Att: 25,170

Saturday, October 5

Middlesbrough 2 (Ehiogu 23, Geremi 68)
Bolton 0 Att: 31,005

Newcastle 2 (Shearer 45, 69)
West Brom 1 (Balis 27) Att: 52,142

Southampton 2 (Ormerod 2, 43)
Manchester City 0 Att: 31,009

West Ham 1 (Cole 17)
Birmingham 2 (John 4, 43) Att: 35,010

Sunday, October 6

Arsenal 3 (Kanu 3, 9, Vieira 45)
Sunderland 1 (Craddock 82) Att: 37,902

Aston Villa 0
Leeds 0 Att: 33,505

Blackburn 1 (Ostenstad 59)
Tottenham 2 (Keane 6, Redknapp 89) Att: 26,203

Fulham 1 (Sava 36)
Charlton 0 Att: 14,775

Liverpool 1 (Owen 90)
Chelsea 0 Att: 43,856

Monday, October 7

Manchester Utd 3 (Scholes 86, 90, Van Nistelrooy pen 90)
Everton 0 Att: 67,629

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	9	7	2	0	24	9	23
Liverpool	9	6	3	0	19	8	21
Middlesbrough	9	5	2	2	13	5	17
Man Utd	9	5	2	2	12	6	17
Tottenham	9	5	1	3	13	13	16
Fulham	8	4	2	2	13	8	14
Chelsea	9	3	4	2	15	12	13
Newcastle	8	4	1	3	12	9	13
Leeds	9	4	1	4	11	9	13
Blackburn	9	3	3	3	11	10	12
Birmingham	9	3	2	4	10	11	11
Everton	9	3	2	4	11	14	11
Southampton	9	2	4	3	6	8	10
Aston Villa	9	3	1	5	6	9	10
West Brom	9	3	0	6	7	15	9
Man City	9	2	2	5	7	14	8
Sunderland	9	2	2	5	4	13	8
Bolton	8	2	1	5	8	14	7
Charlton	9	2	1	6	7	14	7
West Ham	8	1	2	5	8	16	5

LEADING GOALSCORERS
6 Thierry Henry (Arsenal)
6 Sylvain Wiltord (Arsenal)
6 Gianfranco Zola (Chelsea)

FRANCE

Tuesday, September 10

Lyon 1 (Juninho 31)
Lens 0 Att: 32,711

Wednesday, September 11

Ajaccio 0
Montpellier 0 Att: 7,000

Auxerre 1 (Mwaruwari 78)
Bastia 0 Att: 8,000

Bordeaux 1 (Darcheville 40)
Troyes 0 Att: 22,536

Le Havre 1 (Fauconnier 27)
Guingamp 2 (Malouda 45, Eloi 67) Att: 11,121

Lille 2 (Manchev 29, 75)
Paris SG 1 (Ronaldinho pen 49) Att: 17,400

Monaco 2 (Pierre-Fanfan 13, Camara 73)
Nantes 1 (Makukula 42) Att: 3,500

Nice 2 (Everson 52, Olufade 81)
Marseille 0 Att: 15,000

Rennes 2 (Monterrubio pen 85, pen 90)
Sochaux 2 (Frau 32, Mathieu 73) Att: 15,856

Strasbourg 1 (Martins pen 29)
Sedan 1 (Asuar 12) Att: 10,250

Saturday, September 14

Guingamp 0
Nice 0 Att: 11,016

Lens 1 (Utaka 90)
Rennes 0 Att: 36,075

Marseille 2 (Leboeuf pen 16, Bakayoko 76)
Bordeaux 1 (Pauleta 52) Att: 48,500

Montpellier 1 (Mansare 70)
Lille 0 Att: 8,991

Nantes 1 (Vahirua 19)
Lyon 0 Att: 34,000

Paris SG 3 (Fiorese 9, Cardetti 16, 47)
Strasbourg 0 Att: 36,494

Sedan 2 (Djurisic 56, Mionnet 89)
Monaco 2 (Nonda 16, 86) Att: 16,000

Sochaux 1 (Santos 45)
Auxerre 1 (Mwaruwari 65) Att: 18,353

Troyes 1 (Nivet 40)
Le Havre 1 (Henin pen 47) Att: 10,469

Sunday, September 15

Bastia 1 (Laslandes 28)
Ajaccio 2 (Rodriguez 35, Faderne 89) Att: 8,500

Saturday, September 21

Ajaccio 0
Sochaux 1 (Santos 31) Att: 7,500

Auxerre 3 (Kapo 9, Mwaruwari 76, 81)
Sedan 1 (N'Diefi 75) Att: 6,000

Bordeaux 1 (Jemmali 75)
Lens 0 Att: 27,628

Le Havre 1 (Fauconnier 66)
Marseille 3 (Sakho 45, Johansen 58, Celestini 90) Att: 16,149

Lille 2 (Tapia 50, Sterjovski 88)
Guingamp 1 (Eloi 72) Att: 13,543

Lyon 1 (Laville 55)
Monaco 3 (Nonda 15, Giuly 52, Camara 90) Att: 38,392

Nice 1 (Meslin pen 40)
Troyes 0 Att: 10,935

Rennes 1 (Arribage 79)
Nantes 0 Att: 20,537

Strasbourg 3 (Ljuboja 26, 85, Bertin pen 90)
Montpellier 2 (Mezaque 57, 69) Att: 9,164

Sunday, September 22

Paris SG 1 (Paulo Cesar 78)
Bastia 1 (Laslandes 57) Att: 36,000

Friday, September 27

Marseille 3 (Van Buyten 41, Chapuis 45, Bakayoko pen 77)
Ajaccio 1 (Destruhaut 15) Att: 48,035

Saturday, September 28

Bastia 2 (Maurice pen 14, Laslandes 63)
Bordeaux 1 (Pauleta 85) Att: 7,164

Guingamp 2 (Eloi 69, Carnot 90)
Strasbourg 3 (Martins 41, Ljuboja 73, Ehret 75) Att: 10,058

Lens 0
Lille 0 Att: 39,153

Monaco 2 (Camara 10, Cech og 78)
Rennes 1 (Reveillere 34) Att: 5,000

Montpellier 1 (Bamogo 13)
Paris SG 1 (Paulo Cesar 65) Att: 18,456

Nantes 1 (Moldovan 36)
Auxerre 4 (Mwaruwari 25, Gonzales 27, Lachuer 33, 79) Att: 34,000

Sedan 4 (H Camara 2, Noro 49, 85, Liri 74)
Le Havre 0 Att: 10,000

Sochaux 1 (Boudarene 87)
Nice 0 Att: 15,457

Troyes 1 (Niang 85)
Lyon 1 (Dhorasoo 74) Att: 11,592

Saturday, October 5

Ajaccio 1 (Rodriguez 85)
Nantes 0 Att: 6,500

Le Havre 1 (Fauconnier 49)
Sochaux 0 Att: 8,779

Lille 3 (Tapia 16, Brunel 55, Cheyrou 64)
Marseille 0 Att: 20,208

Montpellier 0
Lens 2 (Moreira 42, Utaka 88) Att: 11,731

Nice 2 (Cherrad 75, Diawara 88)
Bastia 0 Att: 13,072

Rennes 0
Lyon 1 (Govou 50) Att: 18,480

Strasbourg 2 (Ehret 20, Ismael 50)
Troyes 1 (Gousse 29) Att: 12,775

Sunday, October 6

Auxerre 1 (Mwaruwari 17)
Monaco 1 (Nonda 68) Att: 10,000

Bordeaux 2 (Pauleta 6, 62)
Sedan 2 (Di Tommaso 10, Liri 77) Att: 32,000

Paris SG 5 (Paulo Cesar 12, 63, Aloisio 15, 24, Cardetti 30)
Guingamp 0 Att: 35,000

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Auxerre	10	6	3	1	16	7	21
Nice	10	6	2	2	16	5	20
Paris SG	10	4	5	1	16	7	17
Monaco	10	5	2	3	15	9	17
Marseille	10	5	2	3	13	12	17
Sochaux	10	4	4	2	12	9	16
Lens	10	4	4	2	9	6	16
Strasbourg	10	4	4	2	15	18	16
Lyon	10	4	3	3	19	13	15
Bordeaux	10	4	3	3	11	8	15
Lille	10	3	4	3	9	11	13
Guingamp	10	3	3	4	14	16	12
Ajaccio	10	3	3	4	8	11	12
Bastia	10	3	2	5	10	14	11
Sedan	10	2	4	4	12	16	10
Nantes	10	3	1	6	10	15	10
Le Havre	10	2	4	4	7	13	10
Montpellier	10	2	3	5	6	11	9
Troyes	10	1	4	5	5	12	7
Rennes	10	1	2	7	6	16	5

LEADING GOALSCORERS
7 Benjamin Mwaruwari (Auxerre)
6 Sonny Anderson (Lyon)
6 Kaba Diawara (Nice)
6 Shabani Nonda (Monaco)
6 Pauleta (Bordeaux)

GERMANY

Tuesday, September 10

Bayern Munich 3 (Salihamidzic 41, Pizarro 53, Elber 76)
1860 Munich 1 (Max 15) Att: 69,000

Bochum 0
Borussia Dortmund 0 Att: 32,645

Hertha 1 (Preetz 80)
Monchengladbach 2 (Munch pen 10, Van Hout 58) Att: 40,120

Werder Bremen 4 (Ailton pen 30, 66, 79, Micoud 59)
Nurnberg 1 (Ciric 54) Att: 25,000

Wednesday, September 11

Hannover 1 (Idrissou 24)
Energie Cottbus 3 (Topic 8, Idrissou og 63, Jungnickel 90) Att: 35,506

Hansa Rostock 1 (Kientz 74)
Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Neuville 5, Brdaric 22, Wimmer og 87) Att: 25,000

Kaiserslautern 1 (Basler 56)
Arminia Bielefeld 1 (Diabang 59) Att: 32,200

Stuttgart 1 (Bordon 33)
Schalke 1 (Hajto pen 87) Att: 26,500

Wolfsburg 2 (Effenberg pen 51, Sarpei 83)
Hamburg 1 (Antar 71) Att: 17,546

Saturday, September 14

Arminia Bielefeld 0
Hertha 1 (Marcelinho 52) Att: 22,147

Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Basturk 11)
Hannover 3 (Bobic 41, 80, Idrissou 83) Att: 22,500

Borussia Dortmund 1 (Ewerthon 71)
Schalke 1 (Agali 70) Att: 68,600

Energie Cottbus 0
Werder Bremen 1 (Piplica og 51) Att: 12,070

Monchengladbach 1 (Munch 50)
Stuttgart 1 (Kuranyi 71) Att: 27,700

1860 Munich 2 (Wiesinger 48, Schroth 63)
Wolfsburg 2 (Ponte 77, Klimowicz 87) Att: 20,800

Nurnberg 1 (Ciric 36)
Bayern Munich 2 (Ballack 12, 52) Att: 44,600

Sunday, September 15

Bochum 0
Hansa Rostock 1 (Salou 32) Att: 21,000

Hamburg 2 (Romeo 66, 77)
Kaiserslautern 0 Att: 39,807

Saturday, September 21

Bayern Munich 3 (Zickler 45, Ballack 47, Elber 76)
Energie Cottbus 1 (Rink 19) Att: 43,000

Hannover 2 (Bobic 44, Linke 71)
Bochum 2 (Fahrenhorst 24, Tapalovic 89) Att: 34,742

Hansa Rostock 0
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Koller 12) Att: 28,600

Hertha 2 (Marcelinho 50, Goor 52)
Hamburg 0 Att: 40,000

Kaiserslautern 0
1860 Munich 0 Att: 34,310

Werder Bremen 3 (Ailton pen 25, Haristeas 27, 31)
Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Brdaric 11, Stalteri og 42) Att: 28,160

Wolfsburg 0
Nurnberg 2 (Sanneh 65, Petkovic 68) Att: 12,414

Sunday, September 22

Schalke 2 (Poulsen 15, Agali 45)
Monchengladbach 1 (Van Hout 31) Att: 60,601

Stuttgart 3 (Kuranyi 5, 64, 70)
Arminia Bielefeld 0 Att: 20,000

Saturday, September 28

Arminia Bielefeld 2 (Albayrak pen 7, Diabang 68)
Schalke 1 (Varela pen 19) Att: 26,601

Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Lucio 9, Bierofka 63)
Bayern Munich 1 (Salihamidzic 88) Att: 22,500

Borussia Dortmund 1 (Ewerthon 85)
Monchengladbach 0 Att: 68,600

Energie Cottbus 0
Wolfsburg 1 (Maric 55) Att: 11,605

Hamburg 3 (Romeo 14, 86, Barbarez 23)
Stuttgart 2 (Seitz 9, Hleb 25) Att: 36,740

Hansa Rostock 1 (Wibran 10)
Hannover 2 (Idrissou 32, Bobic 43) Att: 19,000

1860 Munich 1 (Schroth 15)
Hertha 0 Att: 25,200

Sunday, September 29

Bochum 1 (Freier 22)
Werder Bremen 4 (Ailton 16, 50, Haristeas 37, Krstajic 87) Att: 22,000

Nurnberg 1 (Sanneh 69)
Kaiserslautern 0 Att: 30,200

Saturday, October 5

Bayern Munich 4 (Elber 27, 90, Pizarro 39, 67)
Bochum 1 (Schindzielorz 77) Att: 63,000

Hannover 0
Borussia Dortmund 3 (Frings pen 42, Koller 63, Amoroso 87) Att: 49,800

Hertha 2 (Marcelinho 75, 83)
Nurnberg 1 (Ciric 42) Att: 38,568

Kaiserslautern 4 (Klose 18, 72, Knavs 49, Hujdurovic og 77)
Energie Cottbus 0 Att: 33,246

Monchengladbach 3 (Aidoo 32, 60, Van Houdt 45)
Arminia Bielefeld 0 Att: 26,600

Schalke 3 (Agali 9, Sand 15, Asamoah 45)
Hamburg 0 Att: 60,601

Wolfsburg 2 (Maric 6, Effenberg 74)
Bayer Leverkusen 0 Att: 14,234

Sunday, October 6

Stuttgart 4 (Kuranyi 46, 48, Ganea 50, 90)
1860 Munich 1 (Schroth 23) Att: 18,000

Werder Bremen 0
Hansa Rostock 0 Att: 28,000

GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern Munich	8	6	1	1	22	8	19
B Dortmund	8	4	4	0	12	5	16
Werder Bremen	8	5	1	2	14	11	16
Schalke	8	4	3	1	12	6	15
Hansa Rostock	8	4	1	3	11	6	13
Wolfsburg	8	4	1	3	8	7	13
Hertha	8	3	3	2	9	7	12
M'gladbach	8	3	2	3	10	6	11
Bochum	8	3	2	3	16	14	11
1860 Munich	8	3	2	3	11	12	11
Stuttgart	8	2	4	2	14	11	10
Arminia Bielefeld	8	3	1	4	9	15	10
Nurnberg	8	3	0	5	10	14	9
Hamburg	8	3	0	5	9	15	9
B Leverkusen	8	2	2	4	12	16	8
Hannover	8	2	1	5	11	18	7
Kaiserslautern	8	1	3	4	7	11	6
Energie Cottbus	8	1	1	6	5	20	4

LEADING GOALSCORERS
8 Giovane Elber (Bayern Munich)
6 Ailton (Werder Bremen)
6 Thomas Christiansen (Bochum)
6 Sasa Ciric (Nurnberg)
6 Kevin Kuranyi (Stuttgart)
6 Claudio Pizarro (Bayern Munich)

GREECE

Sep 14: AEK 1 Panathinaikos 0; Iraklis 2 Olympiakos 2; PAOK 2 Kallithea 3.
Sep 15: Akratitos 1 OFI 1; Aigaleo 3 Aris 0; Giannina 2 Ionikos 3; Proodeftiki 1 Xanthi 1; Panionios 2 Panahaiki 0.
Sep 21: Olympiakos 4 Akratitos 0; Kallithea 1 Proodeftiki 1.
Sep 22: Panionios 3 Iraklis 1; Panahaiki 0 Aigaleo 2; OFI 2 PAOK 3; Aris 2 Giannina 0; Ionikos 0 Panathinaikos 1; Xanthi 0 AEK 1.

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olympiakos	4	3	1	0	8	2	10
AEK	4	3	1	0	6	2	10
Panionios	4	3	0	1	7	2	9
Aris	4	3	0	1	4	3	9
Aigaleo	4	2	2	0	6	1	8
Proodeftiki	4	2	2	0	4	2	8
PAOK	4	2	1	1	10	7	7
Iraklis	4	2	1	1	8	5	7
Xanthi	4	1	2	1	3	3	5
Kallithea	4	1	1	2	4	6	4
Ionikos	4	1	1	2	3	5	4
Akratitos	4	1	1	2	3	6	4
Panathinaikos	4	1	0	3	2	6	3
OFI	4	0	1	3	3	8	1
Giannina	4	0	0	4	3	9	0
Panahaiki	4	0	0	4	0	7	0

HOLLAND

Tuesday, September 10

AZ 0
PSV 4 (Ooijer 14, Kezman 36, 45, Vennegoor of Hesselink 85) Att: 7,480

Feyenoord 4 (Van Hooijdonk pen 12, 14, Pardo 53, Bombarda 90)
Excelsior 1 (Pinas 25) Att: 43,100

Utrecht 4 (Kuijt pen 2, 75, Gluscevic 27, Tanghe 52)
De Graafschap 0 Att: 18,000

Friday, September 13

Vitesse 3 (Peeters 11, Hofs 68, Sone 90)
RBC 0 Att: 21,600

Saturday, September 14

Ajax 2 (Witschge 59, Chivu pen 78)
Zwolle 0 Att: 49,300

Excelsior 4 (Pinas 37, Olfers 40, Lopes 68, Boutahar 75)
Groningen 2 (Matthijs 36, Broerse 57) Att: 3,142

Heerenveen 0
NAC 2 (Engelaar 16, 23) Att: 14,300

PSV 4 (Kezman 8, 62, 73, Bruggink 53)
RKC 0 Att: 32,000

Twente 1 (Booth 25)
Feyenoord 5 (Ono 24, 45, Buffel 40, 76, Van Hooijdonk 67) Att: 13,250

Willem II 2 (Landzaat 42, Sektioui 77)
Utrecht 0 Att: 13,400

Sunday, September 15

De Graafschap 1 (Culina 28)
AZ 2 (Meerdink 41, Van Galen 45) Att: 10,100

NEC 2 (De Nooijer 19, Hersi 45)
Roda JC 4 (Soetaers 44, 88, Cristiano 60, 62) Att: 10,000

Friday, September 20

Excelsior 1 (Mtiliga 86)
AZ 2 (Van Galen 33, Nelisse 44) Att: 3,135

NAC 2 (Bobson 36, Stewart 80)
Twente 0 Att: 13,246

Saturday, September 21

Feyenoord 2 (Van Hooijdonk 6, Buffel 56)
De Graafschap 0 Att: 43,500

RBC 2 (Wooter 82, Den Ouden 88)
Ajax 3 (Ibrahimovic 58, Galasek 66, Chivu pen 75) Att: 5,000

Willem II 1 (Ceesay 59)
NEC 1 (Hesp pen 28) Att: 13,000

Zwolle 1 (Promes 52)
PSV 3 (Kezman 10, 65, Vennegoor of Hesselink 80) Att: 6,865

Sunday, September 22

Groningen 0
Utrecht 0 Att: 11,860

Roda JC 1 (Soetaers 23)
Heerenveen 0 Att: 13,250

Vitesse 1 (Rankovic 71)
RKC 1 (Van Diemen 90) Att: 21,812

Friday, September 27

AZ 4 (Perez 3, 33, 60, Nelisse 20)
Groningen 1 (Bronkhorst 90) Att: 6,758

Saturday, September 28

PSV 4 (Rommedahl 22, Kezman 29, 62, Robben 35)
De Graafschap 0 Att: 30,000

RBC 4 (Nascimento 45, Den Ouden 54, Vos 60, Daelemans 90)
Feyenoord 2 (Buffel 29, Van Hooijdonk 78) Att: 5,000

Twente 3 (Booth 71, Cavens 85, Cairo 88)
Roda JC 3 (Sonko 56, Anastasiou 70, Berglund 80) Att: 13,250

Willem II 5 (Sektioui 8, Van der Gun 11, Mathijsen 40, Ceesay 55, Shoukov 57)
Zwolle 2 (Cvetkov 52, Lim-Duan 89) Att: 12,700

Sunday, September 29

Ajax 2 (Ibrahimovic 47, Hossam 63)
NAC 2 (Bobson 3, Stewart 21) Att: 45,952

NEC 4 (Wielaert 14, Simr 26, Hersi 56, De Nooijer 72)
Heerenveen 2 (Selakovic 65, De Jong 73) Att: 9,000

RKC 0
Excelsior 3 (Mtiliga 45, Koswal 79, Holman 90) Att: 7,200

Utrecht 1 (Van den Bergh 27)
Vitesse 0 Att: 15,331

Wednesday, October 2

NEC 2 (Hersi 32, De Nooijer 75)
Groningen 0 Att: 10,500

Friday, October 4

RKC 0
Zwolle 2 (Bosschaart 11, Van der Haar 30) Att: 4,500

Saturday, October 5

De Graafschap 0
Twente 1 (Cairo 90) Att: 11,000

NAC 2 (Engelaar 31, 76)
PSV 2 (Kezman 57, Rommedahl 90) Att: 15,259

Roda JC 2 (Berglund 62, Sonko 90)
Excelsior 3 (Lopes 17, 68, Koswal 83) Att: 13,000

Sunday, October 6

AZ 1 (Van Galen 45)
Vitesse 3 (Claessens 6, Amoah 68, Hofs 90) Att: 6,972

Feyenoord 1 (Van Hooijdonk 56)
Ajax 2 (Wamberto 23, Litmanen 43) Att: 42,200

Heerenveen 1 (Nurmela pen 37)
Willem II 1 (Van der Gun 67) Att: 14,200

Utrecht 2 (Kuijt 39, Schut 90)
RBC 2 (Den Ouden 43, De Graaf 53) Att: 15,000

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSV	7	6	1	0	20	3	19
Ajax	7	6	1	0	17	8	19
Feyenoord	7	4	1	2	18	10	13
Willem II	7	3	3	1	12	6	12
Roda JC	7	3	3	1	15	12	12
NAC	7	2	5	0	11	7	11
NEC	7	3	2	2	11	9	11
Vitesse	7	3	1	3	10	7	10
Excelsior	7	3	1	3	13	13	10
AZ	7	3	1	3	12	15	10
RKC	7	3	1	3	10	15	10
Utrecht	7	2	3	2	9	8	9
RBC	7	2	2	3	12	13	8
Zwolle	7	2	2	3	8	12	8
Twente	7	1	2	4	8	16	5
De Graafschap	7	1	0	6	5	17	3
Heerenveen	7	0	2	5	7	16	2
Groningen	7	0	1	6	5	16	1

LEADING GOALSCORERS
10 Mateja Kezman (PSV)
7 Pierre Van Hooijdonk (Feyenoord)
5 Rick Hoogendorp (RKC)
5 Tom Soetaers (Roda JC)

HUNGARY

Aug 16: Kispest-Honved 0 Videoton 0.
Aug 17: Gyor 1 MTK 0; Siofok 4 Bekescsaba 1.
Aug 18: Dunaferr 3 Zalaegerszeg 3; Ferencvaros 2 Matav 0; Debrecen 2 Ujpest 5.
Aug 23: MTK 3 Zalaegerszeg 0.
Aug 24: Dunaferr 2 Ferencvaros 2; Matav 1 Siofok 2; Bekescsaba 4 Kispest-Honved 0; Videoton 2 Debrecen 2; Ujpest 2 Gyor 2.
Aug 31: Bekescsaba 0 Videoton 2; Gyor 0 Debrecen 1; Siofok 2 Dunaferr 0; Kispest-Honved 1 Matav 1; Ujpest 2 Zalaegerszeg 0.
Sep 1: Ferencvaros 0 MTK 1.
Sep 2: Ujpest 0 Zalaegerszeg 2.
Sep 13: Debrecen 2 Zalaegerszeg 1.
Sep 14: Videoton 1 Gyor 4; Dunaferr 1 Kispest-Honved 3; MTK 1 Siofok 0; Ujpest 3 Ferencvaros 0.
Sep 15: Matav 3 Bekescsaba 1.
Sep 20: Kispest-Honved 3 MTK 5.
Sep 21: Matav 2 Videoton 0; Bekescsaba 1 Dunaferr 3.
Sep 22: Siofok 3 Ujpest 2; Zalaegerszeg 2 Gyor 0.
Sep 23: Ferencvaros 0 Debrecen 0.
Sep 25: Matav 2 Zalaegerszeg 2.
Sep 27: Gyor 1 Ferencvaros 2.
Sep 28: MTK 3 Bekescsaba 0; Dunaferr 1 Matav 0; Ujpest 4 Kispest-Honved 2; Videoton 2 Zalaegerszeg 1.
Sep 29: Debrecen 1 Siofok 1.
Oct 4: Kispest-Honved 1 Debrecen 3.
Oct 5: Dunaferr 0 Videoton 0; Matav 3 MTK 2; Siofok 1 Gyor 1.
Oct 6: Ferencvaros 3 Zalaegerszeg 2; Bekescsaba 1 Ujpest 3.

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MTK	10	8	0	2	24	12	24
Ferencvaros	10	6	2	2	17	9	20
Siofok	10	5	3	2	16	11	18
Debrecen	10	5	3	2	19	17	18
Gyor	10	5	2	3	17	12	17
Ujpest	10	5	1	4	23	18	16
Dunaferr	10	3	3	4	16	17	12
Matav	10	3	2	5	13	15	11
Videoton	10	2	4	4	10	15	10
Zalaegerszeg	9	2	3	4	16	18	9
Kispest-Honved	10	1	3	6	14	27	6
Bekescsaba	9	1	0	8	10	24	3

ICELAND

ICELAND – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
KR	18	10	6	2	32	18	36
Fylkir	18	10	4	4	30	22	34
Grindavik	18	8	5	5	32	26	29
KA	18	6	7	5	18	19	25
IA	18	6	5	7	29	26	23
FH	18	5	7	6	29	30	22
IBV	18	5	5	8	23	22	20
Fram	18	5	5	8	29	33	20
Keflavik	18	4	8	6	25	30	20
Thor	18	3	4	11	22	43	13

ICELANDIC CUP – FINAL

Sep 28 - Laugardalsvollur stadium, Reykjavik
Fram 1 (Ottosson 43)
Fylkir 3 (V F Gislason 19, Sverrisson 55, Oskarsson 78)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 3,376. **Ref:** Markusson

ITALY

Saturday, September 14

Bologna 2 (Cruz 59, 90)
Roma 1 (Batistuta pen 44) Att: 27,439

Como 0
Empoli 2 (Saudati 15, Di Natale 59) Att: 7,349

Inter 1 (Vieri 23)
Torino 0 Att: 66,134

Modena 0
Milan 3 (Inzaghi 17, 90, Simic 54) Att: 15,349

Sunday, September 15

Brescia 1 (Bachini 69)
Piacenza 2 (Montano 72, Hubner 79) Att: 18,100

Juventus 3 (Del Piero 27, 34, Fresi 90)
Atalanta 0 Att: 38,315

Lazio 2 (Simeone 5, Corradi 54)
Chievo 3 (D'Anna 14, Bierhoff 50, Della Morte 70) Att: 37,299

Perugia 2 (Miccoli 51, Tedesco 80)
Reggina 0 Att: 11,220

Udinese 1 (Alberto 54)
Parma 1 (Adriano 24) Att: 15,636

Saturday, September 21

Empoli 0
Juventus 2 (Del Piero pen 6, 73) Att: 18,700

Milan 3 (Maldini 40, Inzaghi 50, Seedorf 65)
Perugia 0 Att: 59,296

Sunday, September 22

Atalanta 2 (Doni 18, pen 51)
Bologna 2 (Locatelli 13, Bellucci pen 77) Att: 13,720

Chievo 1 (Cossato 75)
Brescia 2 (Tare 57, Seric 87) Att: 13,880

Parma 2 (Lamouchi 13, Adriano 46)
Como 0 Att: 15,831

Piacenza 2 (Hubner 27, Maresca 88)
Udinese 0 Att: 21,912

Reggina 1 (Nakamura pen 89)
Inter 2 (Vieri 7, Recoba 90) Att: 26,608

Roma 1 (Totti pen 5)
Modena 2 (Milanetto pen 45, Sculli 78) Att: 55,803

Torino 0
Lazio 1 (Simeone 86) Att: 13,464

Saturday, September 28

Juventus 2 (Tudor 87, Del Piero 90)
Parma 2 (Nakata 66, Adriano 81) Att: 38,793

Lazio 1 (Claudio Lopez 51)
Milan 1 (Maldini 7) Att: 59,226

Sunday, September 29

Bologna 1 (Della Rocca 67)
Piacenza 0 Att: 20,548

Brescia 2 (Baggio pen 45, Schopp 84)
Roma 3 (Totti pen 30, 42, 81) Att: 19,100

Como 1 (Carbone pen 17)
Reggina 1 (Nakamura pen 62) Att: 9,195

Inter 2 (Vieri 15, pen 78)
Chievo 1 (Marazzina 3) Att: 57,674

Modena 2 (Sculli 27, 52)
Torino 1 (Ferrante pen 63) Att: 14,362

Perugia 1 (Rezaei 8)
Empoli 3 (Saudati 19, Di Natale 42, Rocchi 66) Att: 7,547

Udinese 1 (Sensini 60)
Atalanta 0 Att: 15,062

Saturday, October 5

Reggina 2 (Pierini 44, Nakamura 82)
Brescia 2 (Appiah 10, Baggio pen 45) Att: 22,177

Roma 4 (Montella 23, Batistuta 76, Totti 81, 89)
Udinese 1 (Sensini 59) Att: 53,729

Sunday, October 6

Atalanta 0
Lazio 1 (Cesar 24) Att: 14,158

Chievo 2 (Franceschini 31, Corini pen 47)
Modena 0 Att: 15,756

Empoli 0
Bologna 0 Att: 6,559

Juventus 1 (Zalayeta 88)
Como 1 (Pecchia 66) Att: 37,112

Milan 6 (Pirlo pen 21, Inzaghi 31, 79, 86, Serginho 41, Rui Costa 84)
Torino 0 Att: 60,945

Parma 2 (Mutu 20, Donati 53)
Perugia 2 (Tedesco 64, 73) Att: 13,177

Piacenza 1 (Maresca 73)
Inter 4 (Di Biagio 37, 51, Recoba 69, Crespo 85) Att: 15,029

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter	4	4	0	0	9	3	12
Milan	4	3	1	0	13	1	10
Juventus	4	2	2	0	8	3	8
Bologna	4	2	2	0	5	3	8
Empoli	4	2	1	1	5	3	7
Lazio	4	2	1	1	5	4	7
Roma	4	2	0	2	9	7	6
Parma	4	1	3	0	7	5	6
Chievo	4	2	0	2	7	6	6
Piacenza	4	2	0	2	5	6	6
Modena	4	2	0	2	4	7	6
Brescia	4	1	1	2	7	8	4
Perugia	4	1	1	2	5	8	4
Udinese	4	1	1	2	3	7	4
Reggina	4	0	2	2	4	7	2
Como	4	0	2	2	2	6	2
Atalanta	4	0	1	3	2	7	1
Torino	4	0	0	4	1	10	0

LEADING GOALSCORERS

6	Filippo Inzaghi (Milan)
6	Francesco Totti (Roma)
5	Alessandro Del Piero (Juventus)
4	Christian Vieri (Inter)

NORWAY

Aug 17: Molde 1 Rosenborg 2.
Aug 18: Bodo/Glimt 1 Odd Grenland 3; Bryne 3 Sogndal 0; Moss 0 Lillestrom 2; Stabaek 1 Brann 0; Start 2 Lyn 2; Valerenga 0 Viking 0.
Aug 24: Lyn 1 Valerenga 0.
Aug 25: Brann 2 Sogndal 3; Lillestrom 7 Start 0; Molde 2 Bryne 1; Rosenborg 2 Moss 0; Odd Grenland 1 Stabaek 1.
Aug 26: Viking 2 Bodo/Glimt 2.
Sep 1: Bodo/Glimt 0 Lyn 2; Bryne 4 Brann 0; Moss 2 Molde 3; Sogndal 1 Odd Grenland 0; Stabaek 1 Viking 2; Start 1 Rosenborg 2.
Sep 2: Valerenga 1 Lillestrom 1.
Sep 11: Brann 3 Start 1.
Sep 14: Rosenborg 1 Valerenga 1.
Sep 15: Lillestrom 2 Bodo/Glimt 0; Lyn 2 Stabaek 0; Molde 2 Start 0; Moss 1 Bryne 0; Viking 1 Sogndal 1.
Sep 16: Odd Grenland 2 Brann 0.
Sep 29: Bodo/Glimt 1 Rosenborg 4; Bryne 0 Odd Grenland 0; Sogndal 2 Lyn 2; Stabaek 1 Lillestrom 1; Start 1 Moss 6; Valerenga 0 Molde 3.
Sep 30: Brann 2 Viking 3.
Oct 6: Lillestrom 3 Sogndal 0; Lyn 2 Brann 3; Molde 3 Bodo/Glimt 0; Moss 1 Valerenga 1; Start 0 Bryne 2; Rosenborg 2 Stabaek 1.
Oct 7: Viking 0 Odd Grenland 3.

NORWAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rosenborg	24	16	4	4	51	28	52
Molde	24	15	4	5	43	19	49
Lyn	24	14	4	6	35	27	46
Viking	24	10	10	4	42	30	40
Odd Grenland	24	12	4	8	35	26	40
Stabaek	24	10	6	8	37	30	36
Lillestrom	24	8	6	10	32	29	30
Valerenga	24	6	11	7	32	29	29
Bryne	24	8	5	11	35	36	29
Sogndal	24	8	4	12	32	46	28
Brann	24	8	3	13	34	46	27
Bodo/Glimt	24	7	4	13	33	41	25
Moss	24	6	6	12	30	40	24
Start	24	2	5	17	21	65	11

POLAND

Aug 16: Lech 0 Katowice 1.
Aug 17: Garbarnia 2 Odra 3; Ruch C 1 KSZO 1; Groclin 2 Gornik 2; Legia 0 Pogon 0.
Aug 18: Wisla P 0 Amica 1; Widzew 3 Polonia 2; Zaglebie 1 Wisla K 4.
Aug 23: Gornik 2 Legia 3.
Aug 24: Amica 2 Pogon 0; KSZO 1 Zaglebie 0; Odra 1 Ruch C 1; Katowice 4 Garbarnia 0; Wisla P 3 Widzew 2.
Aug 25: Polonia 0 Lech 0.
Aug 26: Wisla K 1 Groclin 1.
Aug 30: Ruch C 2 Katowice 0.
Aug 31: Lech 2 Wisla P 2; Zaglebie 0 Odra 1; Groclin 1 KSZO 0; Pogon 1 Gornik 3.
Sep 1: Garbarnia 3 Polonia 1; Legia 3 Wisla K 2.
Sep 3: Widzew 1 Amica 1.
Sep 13: Widzew 2 Lech 2.
Sep 14: Amica 2 Gornik 1; Wisla K 3 Pogon 0; KSZO 1 Legia 1; Odra 3 Groclin 1; Katowice 1 Zaglebie 0; Polonia 2 Ruch C 1; Wisla P 2 Garbarnia 1.
Sep 20: Pogon 4 KSZO 1.
Sep 21: Lech 0 Amica 0; Garbarnia 1 Widzew 0; Ruch C 0 Wisla P 0; Zaglebie 3 Polonia 1; Groclin 0 Katowice 2; Legia 0 Odra 0; Gornik 1 Wisla K 2.
Sep 27: Amica 1 Wisla K 1.
Sep 28: KSZO 1 Gornik 2; Odra 3 Pogon 1; Katowice 1 Legia 2; Polonia 1 Groclin 1; Wisla P 2 Zaglebie 0; Lech 2 Garbarnia 2.
Sep 29: Widzew 2 Ruch C 0.
Oct 4: Gornik 4 Odra 0.
Oct 5: Garbarnia 2 Amica 2; Ruch C 1 Lech 0; Groclin 1 Wisla P 0; Pogon 0 Katowice 0.
Oct 6: Zaglebie 0 Widzew 0; Wisla K 4 KSZO 1.
Oct 7: Legia 4 Polonia 1.

POLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wisla K	9	5	3	1	23	11	18
Odra	9	5	3	1	13	10	18
Legia	9	4	5	0	17	11	17
Katowice	9	5	2	2	11	5	17
Gornik	9	4	2	3	18	13	14
Amica	9	3	5	1	10	8	14
Groclin	9	3	4	2	12	13	13
Wisla P	9	3	3	3	11	11	12
Polonia	9	3	2	4	13	16	11
Widzew	9	2	4	3	10	10	10
Ruch C	9	2	4	3	8	11	10
Garbarnia	9	2	3	4	13	18	9
Lech	9	1	5	3	9	10	8
KSZO	9	2	2	5	9	16	8
Zaglebie	9	2	1	6	11	13	7
Pogon	9	1	2	6	7	19	5

PORTUGAL

Friday, September 13

Academica 0
Boavista 1 (Silva 1)

Saturday, September 14

Moreirense 2 (Demetrios 17, Armando 39)
Benfica 3 (Nuno Gomes 3, Simao pen 70, Feher 79)

Pacos Ferreira 4 (Carlos Carneiro 33, Mauro 36, 54, 90)
Sporting Lisbon 0

Uniao Leiria 1 (Kibuey 90)
Beira Mar 0

Sunday, September 15

Nacional 0
Maritimo 0

FC Porto 3 (Maniche 18, pen 72, Alenichev 90)
Gil Vicente 1 (Nuno Amaro 13)

Santa Clara 3 (Joao Pedro 10, 26, Ceara 70)
Belenenses 1 (Carlos Fernandes 75)

Varzim 2 (Jose Antonio 59, Marcao 86)
Sporting Braga 0

Monday, September 16

Setubal 1 (Hugo Henrique 67)
Guimaraes 2 (Romeu 7, 16)

Saturday, September 21

Belenenses 1 (Eduardo Marques 8)
Pacos Ferreira 0

Benfica 3 (Nuno Gomes 23, Simao pen 55, 88)
Uniao Leiria 1 (Marcio Santos 41)

Sunday, September 22

Beira Mar 0
Nacional 2 (Serginho 40, 55)

Gil Vicente 1 (Paulo Alves 9)
Academica 1 (Tonel 89)

Maritimo 0
Setubal 5 (Rui Lima pen 18, Sandro 28, Marco Ferreira 38, Jorginho 62, Meyong 81)

Sporting Braga 2 (Barroso pen 50, 89)
Moreirense 1 (Alex 72)

Monday, September 23

Guimaraes 0
FC Porto 2 (Deco 40, Tiago 72)

Sporting Lisbon 0
Varzim 0

Tuesday, September 24

Boavista 1 (Silva 56)
Santa Clara 0

Saturday, September 28

Nacional 1 (Serginho 70)
Benfica 0

FC Porto 1 (Deco 11)
Maritimo 0

Sunday, September 29

Moreirense 2 (Demetrios 10, Armando 47)
Uniao Leiria 1 (Douala 58)

Pacos Ferreira 3 (Carlos Carneiro 10, Renato 68, Mauro 79)
Boavista 1 (Silva 2)

Santa Clara 4 (Joao Pedro 30, Ceara 42, 50, Sandro 62)
Gil Vicente 2 (Manoel 22, 72)

Setubal 1 (Hugo Alcantara 26)
Beira Mar 1 (Ricardo Sousa 45)

Sporting Braga 4 (Barroso pen 20, 35, Artur Jorge 23, Glauber 48)
Sporting Lisbon 2 (Kutuzov 24, Tello 41)

Varzim 0
Belenenses 2 (Antchouet 35, Verona 60)

Monday, September 30

Academica 2 (Marcelo 6, Binho 90)
Guimaraes 2 (Pedro Mendes 13, Djurdjevic 56)

Saturday, October 5

Belenenses 3 (Antchouet 1, 16, 89)
Sporting Braga 2 (Wender 50, Barroso 90)

Benfica 1 (Petit 71)
Setubal 1 (Jorginho 85)

Uniao Leiria 1 (Silas 66)
Nacional 0

Sunday, October 6

Gil Vicente 1 (Luis Loureiro 17)
Pacos Ferreira 1 (Joao Armando 57)

Guimaraes 5 (Nuno Assis 8, Romeu 10, 73, Hugo Cunha 79, Djurdjevic 90)
Santa Clara 0

Maritimo 2 (Eric Gaucho 2, 80)
Academica 1 (Lucas 83)

Monday, October 7

Beira Mar 1 (Sousa 65)
FC Porto 1 (Derlei 11)

Sporting Lisbon 3 (Kutuzov 30, Ronaldo 33, 90)
Moreirense 0

Tuesday, October 8

Boavista 2 (Sanchez 32, Cafu 75)
Varzim 1 (Rodolfo 43)

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Porto	6	4	2	0	10	4	14
Benfica	6	4	1	1	12	5	13
Guimaraes	6	4	1	1	14	8	13
Belenenses	6	4	1	1	11	7	13
Pacos Ferreira	6	3	1	2	11	5	10
Sporting Braga	6	3	1	2	9	8	10
Sporting Lisbon	6	3	1	2	9	9	10
Boavista	6	3	1	2	6	6	10
Setubal	6	2	3	1	10	5	9
Nacional	6	2	1	3	5	5	7
Varzim	6	2	1	3	5	7	7
Santa Clara	6	2	1	3	8	11	7
Maritimo	6	2	1	3	4	10	7
Uniao Leiria	6	2	0	4	5	9	6
Gil Vicente	6	1	2	3	6	10	5
Beira Mar	6	1	2	3	4	8	5
Moreirense	6	1	0	5	6	12	3
Academica	6	0	2	4	4	10	2

ROMANIA

Aug 17: U Craiova 3 Astra 1; Poli AEK 2 Bacau 0; Otelul 2 Arges 0; Farul 0 Gloria 0; Dinamo 5 Ceahlaul 0.
Aug 18: Sportul 1 Rapid 2; Brasov 0 Steaua 0; UTA 1 National 2.
Aug 24: Arges 0 Brasov 0; Gloria 3 Sportul 0; National 4 Farul 1; Ceahlaul 6 UTA 0.
Aug 25: Rapid 5 Otelul 2; Astra 4 Dinamo 2; Bacau 2 U Craiova 3; Steaua 0 Poli AEK 1.
Aug 31: Poli AEK 1 Arges 0; Astra 2 Ceahlaul 2; Dinamo 1 Bacau 1; Otelul 1 Gloria 0; Farul 1 UTA 0.
Sep 1: U Craiova 3 Steaua 1; Sportul 2 National 1; Brasov 2 Rapid 0.
Sep 13: Rapid 3 Poli AEK 0; National 0 Otelul 0.
Sep 14: Arges 2 U Craiova 2; Bacau 2 Astra 0; Gloria 3 Brasov 1; Ceahlaul 0 Farul 0.
Sep 15: UTA 0 Sportul 2; Steaua 1 Dinamo 1.
Sep 21: Bacau 0 Ceahlaul 0; Dinamo 3 Arges 0; Poli AEK 2 Gloria 1; Otelul 2 UTA 1; Sportul 0 Farul 3.
Sep 22: Astra 0 Steaua 1; U Craiova 1 Rapid 3; Brasov 0 National 1.
Sep 27: Gloria 4 U Craiova 0; National 1 Poli AEK 0.
Sep 28: Rapid 3 Dinamo 1; UTA 3 Brasov 1; Farul 0 Otelul 1; Ceahlaul 2 Sportul 2.
Sep 29: Arges 1 Astra 0; Steaua 3 Bacau 0.
Oct 5: Steaua 0 Ceahlaul 0; Dinamo 0 Gloria 2; Poli AEK 3 UTA 4; Brasov 2 Farul 0; Bacau 2 Arges 3; Otelul 0 Sportul 0.
Oct 6: U Craiova 0 National 2; Astra 0 Rapid 2.

ROMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rapid	7	6	0	1	18	7	18
National	7	5	1	1	11	4	16
Otelul	7	4	2	1	8	6	14
Gloria	7	4	1	2	13	4	13
Poli AEK	7	4	0	3	9	9	12
U Craiova	7	3	1	3	12	15	10
Steaua	7	2	3	2	6	5	9
Dinamo	7	2	2	3	13	11	8
Ceahlaul	7	1	5	1	10	9	8
Brasov	7	2	2	3	6	7	8
Farul	7	2	2	3	5	7	8
Sportul	7	2	2	3	7	11	8
Arges	7	2	2	3	6	10	8
UTA	7	2	0	5	9	17	6
Bacau	7	1	2	4	7	12	5
Astra	7	1	1	5	7	13	4

RUSSIA

Sep 10: Torpedo M 1 Zenit 1.
Sep 11: Shinnik 1 Uralan 0; Rostselmash 1 Alaniya 1; Kryliya Sovetov 1 Saturn 0; Anzhi 0 Sokol 1; Rotor 0 Torpedo-ZIL 0; CSKA 2 Dinamo 3.
Sep 12: Lokomotiv M 1 Spartak 1.
Sep 21: Rostselmash 1 Spartak 1; Uralan 1 Kryliya Sovetov 0; Saturn 2 Shinnik 3; Sokol 0 Torpedo M 4; Dinamo 2 Rotor 3.
Sep 23: Torpedo-ZIL 0 CSKA 2; Zenit 2 Anzhi 2.
Sep 28: Rostselmash 2 Saturn 1; Kryliya Sovetov 1 Alaniya 0; Torpedo M 2 Torpedo-ZIL 1; Anzhi 0 Dinamo 1; Rotor 2 Zenit 1; CSKA 3 Sokol 0.
Oct 6: Spartak 3 Kryliya Sovetov 1; Uralan 0 Rostselmash 0; Alaniya 2 Shinnik 1; Saturn 2 Lokomotiv M 1; Zenit 0 CSKA 2; Sokol 3 Rotor 1; Dinamo 3 Torpedo M 3.
Oct 7: Torpedo-ZIL 1 Anzhi 0.

RUSSIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CSKA	26	17	3	6	52	24	54
Lokomotiv M	25	15	8	2	35	11	53
Spartak	27	15	7	5	45	33	52
Saturn	26	12	6	8	37	31	42
Kryliya Sovetov	26	13	3	10	35	30	42
Torpedo M	26	11	7	8	42	31	40
Dinamo	26	12	4	10	36	29	40
Shinnik	26	10	7	9	35	35	37
Zenit	26	8	8	10	33	35	32
Rotor	26	9	5	12	23	29	32
Uralan	26	6	11	9	31	36	29
Alaniya	25	7	5	13	29	37	26
Rostselmash	26	6	8	12	25	45	26
Torpedo-ZIL	26	5	10	11	18	32	25
Anzhi	27	4	9	14	20	41	21
Sokol	26	4	7	15	21	38	19

SCOTLAND

Tuesday, September 10

Motherwell 2 (Fagan 77, McFadden pen 80)
Celtic 1 (Hartson 87) Att: 8,448

Wednesday, September 11

Aberdeen 1 (Mackie 3)
Dundee Utd 2 (Thompson 18, 40) Att: 10,724

Dundee 2 (Novo 52, Rae 77)
Livingston 1 (Nemsadze og 31) Att: 5,391

Hibernian 1 (Paatelainen 42)
Dunfermline 4 (Walker 11, Brewster 24, 57, Crawford 32) Att: 9,837

Kilmarnock 1 (Canero 42)
Partick 0 Att: 6,848

Rangers 2 (Caniggia 41, Arveladze 79)
Hearts 0 Att: 48,581

Saturday, September 14

Celtic 1 (Hartson 31)
Hibernian 0 Att: 56,703

Dundee Utd 1 (Lilley 50)
Dunfermline 2 (Dempsey 9, Crawford 16) Att: 6,041

Kilmarnock 2 (Mahood 56, McLaughlin 90)
Aberdeen 2 (D'Jaffo 64, Darren Young 82) Att 6,538

Livingston 0
Rangers 2 (Ross 61, Ferguson pen 87) Att: 10,003

Partick 1 (Mitchell 41)
Dundee 1 (Rae 50) Att: 4,552

Sunday, September 15

Hearts 4 (De Vries 35, Kirk 64, 77, Boyack 74)
Motherwell 2 (Lehmann 12, McFadden 28) Att: 8,578

Saturday, September 21

Dunfermline 1 (Bullen 74)
Motherwell 0 Att: 4,987

Hearts 2 (Valois 26, De Vries 56)
Dundee Utd 0 Att: 11,532

Hibernian 2 (Murray 8, McManus 11)
Kilmarnock 0 Att: 8,680

Rangers 3 (Lovenkrands 3, De Boer 28, 70)
Partick 0 Att: 48,696

Sunday, September 22

Dundee 0
Celtic 1 (Larsson 18) Att: 9,483

Livingston 1 (Xausa 56)
Aberdeen 2 (Anderson 1, McNaughton 74) Att: 7,513

Saturday, September 28

Aberdeen 3 (Billio 45, D'Jaffo 56, Derek Young 64)
Dunfermline 1 (Bullen 41) Att: 11,678

Celtic 5 (Larsson 11, 21, pen 90, Sutton 15, 66)
Kilmarnock 0 Att: 57,469

Dundee Utd 0
Rangers 3 (Amoruso 22, Ferguson 45, Arveladze 73) Att: 10,013

Hibernian 1 (Murray 45)
Livingston 0 Att: 9,541

Motherwell 1 (McFadden 56)
Dundee 1 (Lovell 14) Att: 4,025

Partick 2 (Archibald 28, 79)
Hearts 2 (Valois 38, Severin 80) Att: 6,111

Saturday, October 5

Dundee 2 (Rae 76, Caballero 90)
Kilmarnock 1 (Boutal 66) Att: 5,567

Dunfermline 4 (Scott M Thomson 28, Nicholson 68, Crawford 79, 90)
Partick 1 (Mitchell pen 61) Att: 5,522

Hibernian 2 (O'Connor 29, Murray 51)
Dundee Utd 1 (Thompson 76) Att: 9,175

Motherwell 1 (McFadden pen 41)
Aberdeen 2 (Derek Young 46, Deloumeaux 83) Att: 6,014

Sunday, October 6

Celtic 3 (Larsson 39, 53, Sutton 78)
Rangers 3 (Arteta 6, De Boer 54, Arveladze 75) Att: 59,027

Livingston 1 (Wilson 41)
Hearts 1 (Stamp 46) Att: 6,512

SCOTLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	10	8	2	0	29	6	26
Celtic	10	8	1	1	25	6	25
Dunfermline	10	6	0	4	19	19	18
Hearts	10	4	5	1	19	11	17
Aberdeen	10	4	2	4	13	16	14
Dundee	10	3	4	3	11	14	13
Hibernian	10	4	0	6	13	19	12
Kilmarnock	10	3	3	4	9	17	12
Motherwell	10	2	3	5	13	16	9
Partick	10	1	5	4	8	15	8
Dundee Utd	10	1	3	6	6	18	6
Livingston	10	1	2	7	9	17	5

LEADING GOALSCORERS

11	Henrik Larsson (Celtic)
8	Stevie Crawford (Dunfermline)
8	Mark De Vries (Hearts)
6	Ronald De Boer (Rangers)

SPAIN

Saturday, September 14

Athletic Bilbao 0
Barcelona 2 (Luis Enrique 21, Saviola 32) Att: 25,000

Malaga 2 (Dely Valdes 53, Musampa 57)
Rayo Vallecano 1 (Bolic 39) Att: 15,000

Osasuna 1 (Vidrio 12)
Deportivo La Coruna 2 (Makaay 74, 75) Att: 16,000

Valencia 3 (Vicente 8, Carew 87, 90)
Recreativo 0 Att: 45,000

Sunday, September 15

Alaves 0
Racing Santander 1 (Bodipo 30) Att: 15,000

Atletico Madrid 1 (Fernando Torres 57)
Sevilla 1 (Moises pen 45) Att: 50,000

Celta Vigo 3 (Catanha 28, Jesuli 41, 81)
Mallorca 1 (Nino 78) Att: 28,000

Espanyol 1 (Tamudo 80)
Real Sociedad 3 (Kovacevic 40, 89, Aranburu 55) Att: 20,300

Valladolid 1 (Colsa 28)
Villarreal 0 Att: 11,000

Saturday, September 21

Barcelona 2 (Kluivert 58, Luis Enrique 70)
Espanyol 0 Att: 85,833

Deportivo La Coruna 2 (Makaay 13, 28)
Valladolid 0 Att: 26,000

Real Madrid 4 (Ivan Helguera 11, 79, Guti 47, Raul 51)
Osasuna 1 (Rivero pen 60) Att: 65,000

Sunday, September 22

Malaga 2 (Manu 26, Roteta 32)
Valencia 2 (Mista 48, Angulo 90) Att: 18,000

Mallorca 0
Atletico Madrid 4 (Fernando Torres pen 8, 54, Correa 41, Jorge 66) Att: 21,000

Rayo Vallecano 3 (Julio Alvarez pen 18, 49, 90)
Racing Santander 1 (Munitis 45) Att: 11,000

Real Sociedad 3 (Rivas og 29, Kovacevic 57, 79)
Betis 3 (Capi 14, 25, Alfonso 60) Att: 24,424

Recreativo 0
Celta Vigo 3 (Mostovoi 44, 71, McCarthy 90) Att: 19,000

Sevilla 1 (Reyes 50)
Athletic Bilbao 1 (Etxeberria 65) Att: 35,000

Villarreal 0
Alaves 1 (Ivan Alonso 34) Att: 17,000

Saturday, September 28

Alaves 1 (Ivan Alonso 53)
Deportivo La Coruna 2 (Diego Tristan 69, Capdevila 79) Att: 14,786

Betis 3 (Alfonso pen 26, Joaquin 66, Varela 83)
Barcelona 0 Att: 19,500

Valladolid 1 (Olivera pen 58)
Real Madrid 1 (Raul 45) Att: 21,000

Sunday, September 29

Athletic Bilbao 0
Mallorca 2 (Robles 31, Larrainzar og 74) Att: 33,000

Atletico Madrid 1 (Luis Garcia 34)
Recreativo 1 (Raul Molina 27) Att: 55,000

Celta Vigo 2 (Catanha pen 26, Berizzo 39)
Malaga 2 (Musampa 15, Caceres og 40) Att: 20,000

Espanyol 0
Sevilla 0 Att: 21,000

Osasuna 2 (Punal pen 20, Rivero 47)
Real Sociedad 3 (Nihat 12, Jauregi 49, Khokhlov 84) Att: 18,530

Racing Santander 1 (Mora 83)
Villarreal 1 (Marcos Senna 64) Att: 15,189

Valencia 3 (Mista 34, Baraja pen 44, Angulo 86)
Rayo Vallecano 0 Att: 52,000

Saturday, October 5

Recreativo 1 (Xisco 87)
Athletic Bilbao 2 (Gurpegi 61, Tiko 85) Att: 18,000

Sunday, October 6

Barcelona 2 (Motta 38, Kluivert 47)
Osasuna 2 (Rivero 1, Gancedo 45) Att: 80,000

Deportivo La Coruna 0
Racing Santander 2 (Javi Guerrero 27, 71) Att: 30,000

Malaga 3 (Dely Valdes pen 44, Fernando Sanz 65, Manu 72)
Atletico Madrid 1 (Jose Mari 90) Att: 20,000

Mallorca 2 (Lozano 58, Eto'o pen 86)
Espanyol 0 Att: 17,000

Rayo Vallecano 2 (Bolo 41, Julio Alvarez pen 57)
Villarreal 2 (Belletti 20, Marcos Senna 22) Att: 14,500

Real Madrid 5 (Zidane 1, Figo pen 32, 71, Ronaldo 65, 78)
Alaves 2 (Magno 37, Ivan Alonso 84) Att: 71,315

Real Sociedad 2 (Nihat 65, Karpin 68)
Valladolid 1 (Colsa 71) Att: 23,000

Sevilla 1 (Juanito og 68)
Betis 1 (Joaquin 17) Att: 40,000

Valencia 0
Celta Vigo 1 (Vagner 90) Att: 48,000

Tuesday, October 8

Betis 1 (Capi 35)
Real Madrid 1 (Raul 51) Att: 48,000
Continuation of game abandoned after 43mins on September 14 due to floodlight failure

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celta Vigo	5	4	1	0	10	3	13
Real Sociedad	5	4	1	0	15	9	13
Real Madrid	5	3	2	0	13	5	11
Malaga	5	3	2	0	12	8	11
Valencia	5	3	1	1	10	3	10
Betis	5	2	3	0	12	7	9
Dep La Coruna	5	3	0	2	8	8	9
Barcelona	5	2	2	1	8	7	8
Racing Santander	5	2	1	2	5	5	7
Valladolid	5	2	1	2	4	5	7
At Madrid	5	1	3	1	9	7	6
Mallorca	5	2	0	3	5	9	6
Rayo Vallecano	5	1	2	2	8	10	5
Sevilla	5	0	4	1	3	4	4
Alaves	5	1	1	3	6	10	4
Athletic Bilbao	5	1	1	3	5	10	4
Villarreal	5	0	3	2	5	7	3
Osasuna	5	0	2	3	8	13	2
Recreativo	5	0	1	4	4	12	1
Espanyol	5	0	1	4	1	9	1

LEADING GOALSCORERS

6 Julio Alvarez (Rayo Vallecano)
5 Darko Kovacevic (Real Sociedad)
5 Roy Makaay (Deportivo La Coruna)
5 Kiki Musampa (Malaga)

SWEDEN

Aug 17: Sundsvall 1 Landskrona 0; Hammarby 3 Kalmar 1; Orgryte 2 Malmo 2.
Aug 18: Djurgardens 1 Halmstads 3; Helsingborgs 2 Orebro 1; Elfsborg 2 IFK Gothenburg 1; Norrkoping 1 AIK 1.
Aug 24: Malmo 1 Hammarby 1.
Aug 25: AIK 1 Orgryte 1; IFK Gothenburg 1 Djurgardens 2; Kalmar 1 Helsingborgs 1.
Aug 26: Halmstads 3 Norrkoping 2; Landskrona 2 Elfsborg 1; Orebro 2 Sundsvall 2.
Aug 28: Hammarby 3 Helsingborgs 1.
Sep 1: Djurgardens 1 Landskrona 0; Helsingborgs 5 Sundsvall 2; Elfsborg 3 Orebro 0.
Sep 2: Hammarby 0 AIK 2; Norrkoping 1 IFK Gothenburg 1; Kalmar 0 Malmo 3; Orgryte 0 Halmstads 1.
Sep 10: IFK Gothenburg 2 Orgryte 5.
Sep 11: Halmstads 1 Hammarby 1; Malmo 0 Helsingborgs 2; Orebro 0 Djurgardens 3.
Sep 12: AIK 2 Kalmar 1; Sundsvall 1 Elfsborg 0; Landskrona 0 Norrkoping 1.
Sep 14: Hammarby 0 Orebro 2.
Sep 15: AIK 1 Halmstads 1; Malmo 4 IFK Gothenburg 2; Helsingborgs 1 Djurgardens 3.
Sep 16: Norrkoping 3 Elfsborg 1; Kalmar 2 Landskrona 1; Orgryte 1 Sundsvall 2.
Sep 21: Sundsvall 1 Hammarby 4; Landskrona 0 Malmo 1.
Sep 22: Djurgardens 6 Norrkoping 3; Orebro 1 Kalmar 1; Halmstads 2 Helsingborgs 2; Elfsborg 2 Orgryte 1; IFK Gothenburg 2 AIK 0.
Sep 29: AIK 3 Landskrona 1; Halmstads 2 IFK Gothenburg 1; Kalmar 3 Sundsvall 1.
Sep 30: Hammarby 1 Elfsborg 1; Helsingborgs 1 Norrkoping 4; Orgryte 4 Djurgardens 2.
Oct 1: Orebro 2 Malmo 2.
Oct 6: Sundsvall 1 Malmo 0; Norrkoping 1 Orgryte 2; Landskrona 2 Halmstads 2.
Oct 7: Djurgardens 2 Hammarby 1; Elfsborg 1 Kalmar 0; IFK Gothenburg 0 Helsingborgs 1; Orebro 0 AIK 1.

SWEDEN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Djurgardens	23	13	4	6	46	32	43
Malmo	23	13	3	7	47	31	42
Orgryte	23	11	8	4	46	33	41
AIK	23	8	9	6	32	31	33
Helsingborgs	23	9	6	8	35	37	33
Sundsvall	23	8	8	7	26	30	32
Orebro	23	8	7	8	27	33	31
Elfsborg	23	8	6	9	25	29	30
Landskrona	23	8	5	10	39	35	29
Halmstads	23	5	12	6	27	28	27
Hammarby	23	6	8	9	37	38	26
Norrkoping	23	6	7	10	33	34	25
IFK Gothenburg	23	7	3	13	24	37	24
Kalmar	23	5	6	12	18	34	21

SWITZERLAND

Aug 17: Young Boys 2 Delemont 0; Basle 2 Lucerne 3; Grasshopper 4 Thun 1; Neuchatel Xamax 1 St Gallen 0.
Aug 18: Aarau 3 Zurich 1; Wil 1900 2 Servette 2.
Aug 24: Zurich 3 Neuchatel Xamax 2; Lucerne 1 Wil 1900 1; Servette 5 Aarau 0; Thun 4 Basle 2.
Aug 25: St Gallen 2 Young Boys 1; Delemont 2 Grasshopper 4.
Aug 31: Aarau 1 Lucerne 2; Young Boys 2 Zurich 1.
Sep 1: Delemont 6 St Gallen 2; Grasshopper 2 Basle 3; Neuchatel Xamax 2 Servette 1; Wil 1900 1 Thun 5.
Sep 10: Thun 2 Aarau 0.
Sep 11: Basle 7 Wil 1900 1; Lucerne 0 Neuchatel Xamax 1; Young Boys 4 Servette 2; St Gallen 2 Grasshopper 3; Zurich 1 Delemont 0.
Sep 14: Thun 1 Neuchatel Xamax 1; Wil 1900 1 Grasshopper 1; Zurich 2 St Gallen 1; Basle 4 Aarau 0; Lucerne 0 Young Boys 0.
Sep 15: Servette 5 Delemont 0.
Sep 21: Aarau 0 Wil 1900 0; Neuchatel Xamax 1 Basle 1.
Sep 22: Young Boys 3 Thun 0; Delemont 2 Lucerne 2; Grasshopper 1 Zurich 1; St Gallen 2 Servette 2.
Sep 27: Servette 2 Zurich 0.
Sep 28: Grasshopper 3 Aarau 0; Basle 2 Young Boys 1.
Sep 29: Lucerne 1 St Gallen 0; Thun 0 Delemont 1; Wil 1900 2 Neuchatel Xamax 1.
Oct 4: Young Boys 4 Wil 1900 2.
Oct 5: Neuchatel Xamax 3 Aarau 1.
Oct 6: Zurich 2 Lucerne 1; St Gallen 2 Thun 2; Servette 4 Grasshopper 3; Delemont 1 Basle 2.

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grasshopper	15	10	2	3	41	20	32
Basle	15	9	4	2	36	18	31
Young Boys	15	7	4	4	28	23	25
Zurich	15	8	1	6	22	21	25
Servette	15	7	2	6	33	25	23
Thun	15	6	2	7	25	25	20
Neuchatel X	15	5	5	5	18	21	20
Wil 1900	15	4	6	5	23	32	18
Delemont	15	5	1	9	18	26	16
Lucerne*	15	5	4	6	18	24	15
St Gallen	15	3	5	7	21	27	14
Aarau	15	2	2	11	11	32	8

**4pts deducted for licence application irregularities*

TURKEY

Sep 11: Gaziantepspor 3 Fenerbahce 3.
Sep 13: Galatasaray 2 Kocaelispor 0.
Sep 14: Ankaragucu 1 Adanaspor 1; Denizlispor 3 Elazigspor 1; Malatyaspor 2 Fenerbahce 0; Trabzonspor 1 Genclerbirligi 1.
Sep 15: Diyarbakirspor 1 Samsunspor 1; Gaziantepspor 2 Altay 1; Goztepe 2 Besiktas 2; Istanbulspor 1 Bursaspor 1.
Sep 21: Elazigspor 2 Malatyaspor 1.
Sep 22: Adanaspor 0 Gaziantepspor 2; Bursaspor 4 Diyarbakirspor 1; Samsunspor 0 Goztepe 0.
Sep 23: Altay 3 Denizlispor 1; Besiktas 0 Trabzonspor 0; Genclerbirligi 0 Ankaragucu 1; Kocaelispor 0 Istanbulspor 1.
Sep 27: Galatasaray 2 Istanbulspor 0.
Sep 28: Ankaragucu 0 Besiktas 1; Denizlispor 2 Adanaspor 0; Diyarbakirspor 1 Kocaelispor 1; Trabzonspor 0 Samsunspor 1.
Sep 29: Fenerbahce 4 Elazigspor 2; Gaziantepspor 2 Genclerbirligi 0; Goztepe 1 Bursaspor 1; Malatyaspor 6 Altay 0.
Oct 5: Adanaspor 1 Malatyaspor 1; Bursaspor 1 Trabzonspor 2; Elazigspor 0 Galatasaray 0; Istanbulspor 1 Diyarbakirspor 0.
Oct 6: Besiktas 0 Gaziantepspor 0; Altay 1 Fenerbahce 3; Genclerbirligi 0 Denizlispor 0; Kocaelispor 1 Goztepe 3; Samsunspor 1 Ankaragucu 0.

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Galatasaray	7	5	2	0	15	4	17
Gaziantepspor	8	4	4	0	14	7	16
Besiktas	8	4	4	0	11	6	16
Genclerbirligi	8	4	2	2	15	8	14
Fenerbahce	7	4	2	1	14	10	14
Samsunspor	8	4	2	2	8	8	14
Ankaragucu	8	3	2	3	9	8	11
Denizlispor	8	3	2	3	11	11	11
Istanbulspor	8	3	2	3	9	12	11
Malatyaspor	8	2	4	2	14	8	10
Trabzonspor	8	2	4	2	4	5	10
Bursaspor	8	2	3	3	13	12	9
Adanaspor	8	2	3	3	10	11	9
Goztepe	8	2	3	3	12	16	9
Altay	8	2	2	4	12	18	8
Elazigspor	8	2	1	5	10	16	7
Diyarbakirspor	8	0	3	5	6	16	3
Kocaelispor	8	0	1	7	7	18	1

UKRAINE

Aug 17: Chornomorets 1 Karpaty 1; Dnipro 1 Metalurh M 0; Metalist 0 Metalurh D 3; Tavriya 3 Obolon 1; Shakhtar 1 Kryvbas 1; Dynamo 3 Volyn-1 1.
Aug 18: Arsenal 5 Poligraftekhnika 1.
Aug 19: Metalurh Z 0 Vorskla 1.
Sep 1: Karpaty 0 Volyn-1 2; Kryvbas 0 Dynamo 0; Vorskla 1 Shakhtar 2; Poligraftekhnika 1 Tavriya 1; Metalurh D 1 Arsenal 2; Metalurh M 1 Metalist 1; Chornomorets 0 Dnipro 1.
Sep 2: Obolon 2 Metalurh Z 0.
Sep 12: Dnipro 2 Karpaty 0; Metalist 1 Chornomorets 0; Tavriya 0 Metalurh D 2; Metalurh Z 2 Poligraftekhnika 1; Shakhtar 2 Obolon 1; Dynamo 8 Vorskla 0; Volyn-1 2 Kryvbas 0.
Sep 13: Arsenal 2 Metalurh M 0.
Sep 19: Vorskla 0 Volyn-1 1.
Sep 21: Karpaty 0 Kryvbas 0; Obolon 1 Dynamo 1; Poligraftekhnika 0 Shakhtar 1; Metalurh M 2 Tavriya 0; Chornomorets 1 Arsenal 3; Dnipro 2 Metalist 0.
Sep 24: Metalurh D 1 Metalurh Z 1.
Sep 27: Shakhtar 3 Metalurh D 1.
Sep 28: Metalist 1 Karpaty 0; Tavriya 2 Chornomorets 0; Metalurh Z 1 Metalurh M 1; Dynamo 2 Poligraftekhnika 0; Volyn-1 2 Obolon 1; Kryvbas 2 Vorskla 1.
Sep 29: Arsenal 0 Dnipro 3.
Oct 6: Karpaty 3 Vorskla 0; Obolon 0 Kryvbas 1; Poligraftekhnika 3 Volyn-1 2; Metalurh D 1 Dynamo 0; Metalurh M 2 Shakhtar 4; Chornomorets 1 Metalurh Z 0; Dnipro 2 Tavriya 0; Metalist 1 Arsenal 1.

UKRAINE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dnipro	12	10	2	0	22	4	32
Shakhtar	12	9	2	1	24	12	29
Arsenal	12	8	2	2	27	12	26
Dynamo	11	7	2	2	26	8	23
Metalurh D	12	7	2	3	18	11	23
Volyn-1	12	7	0	5	16	18	21
Kryvbas	12	3	5	4	10	12	14
Metalurh M	12	3	4	5	15	16	13
Karpaty	11	3	4	4	11	13	13
Metalist	12	3	4	5	8	15	13
Tavriya	12	3	2	7	14	20	11
Poligraftekhnika	12	2	5	5	11	19	11
Metalurh Z	12	2	4	6	8	15	10
Obolon	12	2	3	7	11	17	9
Vorskla	12	3	0	9	8	25	9
Chornomorets	12	2	1	9	6	18	7

YUGOSLAVIA

Aug 17: Zeta 2 OFK 0; Javor 1 Vojvodina 0; Hajduk K 5 Rudar P 0; Radnicki O 1 Partizan 2; Radnicki N 0 Zemun 2; Cukaricki 2 Mogren 2; Rad 0 Obilic 1.
Aug 18: Zeleznik 1 Sartid 2; Sutjeska 1 Red Star 0.
Aug 24: Sartid 4 Rad 1; Zeleznik 4 Mogren 1; Zemun 1 Sutjeska 0; Partizan 5 Radnicki N 2; Rudar P 0 Radnicki O 1; Vojvodina 1 Hajduk K 0; OFK 6 Javor 0; Obilic 2 Zeta 1.
Aug 30: Rad 0 Zeta 0.
Aug 31: Javor 0 Obilic 0; Hajduk K 0 OFK 1; Radnicki O 2 Vojvodina 2; Sutjeska 0 Partizan 1; Radnicki N 1 Rudar P 1; Cukaricki 4 Zemun 3.
Sep 1: Zeleznik 4 Red Star 3; Sartid 2 Mogren 2.
Sep 14: Mogren 1 Rad 1; Red Star 1 Sartid 1; Zemun 1 Zeleznik 3; Partizan 6 Cukaricki 2; Rudar P 2 Sutjeska 3; Vojvodina 3 Radnicki N 0; OFK 2 Radnicki O 2; Obilic 0 Hajduk K 1; Zeta 1 Javor 0.
Sep 20: Cukaricki 0 Rudar P 1.
Sep 21: Hajduk K 2 Zeta 1; Radnicki O 3 Obilic 3; Radnicki N 0 OFK 1; Sutjeska 1 Vojvodina 0; Rad 2 Javor 0.
Sep 22: Sartid 3 Zemun 0; Zeleznik 2 Partizan 0; Mogren 1 Red Star 4.
Sep 28: Red Star 2 Rad 0; Zemun 3 Mogren 1; Partizan 3 Sartid 2; Rudar P 0 Zeleznik 0; Vojvodina 3 Cukaricki 0; OFK 3 Sutjeska 2; Obilic 2 Radnicki N 0; Zeta 3 Radnicki O 1; Javor 0 Hajduk K 0.
Oct 4: Zeleznik 2 Vojvodina 1.
Oct 5: Radnicki O 0 Javor 0; Radnicki N 3 Zeta 1; Sutjeska 2 Obilic 1; Cukaricki 2 OFK 3; Rad 1 Hajduk K 1.
Oct 6: Sartid 1 Rudar P 0; Mogren 0 Partizan 1; Red Star 3 Zemun 0.

YUGOSLAVIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Partizan	8	7	0	1	23	10	21
Zeleznik	8	6	1	1	17	8	19
OFK	8	5	1	2	16	9	16
Sartid	8	4	3	1	17	10	15
Obilic	8	4	2	2	10	7	14
Vojvodina	8	4	1	3	11	6	13
Sutjeska	8	4	1	3	9	8	13
Zemun	8	4	0	4	11	14	12
Red Star	7	3	2	2	13	7	11
Hajduk K	8	3	2	3	10	9	11
Zeta	8	3	1	4	9	9	10
Javor	8	2	3	3	3	10	9
Radnicki O	8	1	4	3	10	13	7
Rad	8	1	3	4	5	10	6
Cukaricki	7	1	2	4	12	20	5
Rudar P	8	1	2	5	5	13	5
Radnicki N	8	1	2	5	6	15	5
Mogren	8	0	4	4	8	17	4

SOUTH AMERICA

ARGENTINA

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Friday, September 13

Chacarita Juniors 2 (Delgado 8, Pena 69)
Independiente 6 (Insua 18, 36, 51, Silvera 29, 33, 39)

Saturday, September 14

Gimnasia LP 0
San Lorenzo 1 (Acosta 42)

Huracan 2 (Fleita 43, 56)
Arsenal 2 (P Gonzalez 90, S Gonzalez 90)

Newell's Old Boys 0
Union Santa Fe 1 (Perezlindo 90)

Sunday, September 15

Colon Santa Fe 2 (Parodi 29, Pereyra 78)
Rosario Central 1 (Martinez og 14)

Lanus 1 (Bustos Montoya 73)
Estudiantes 0

Olimpo 0
Boca Juniors 2 (Delgado 50, Ibarra 64)

Racing Club 1 (Pavlovich 53)
Banfield 0

River Plate 1 (Cavenaghi 84)
Talleres Cordoba 1 (Quinteros 7)

Velez Sarsfield 1 (Nanni 43)
Nueva Chicago 1 (Tilger pen 32)

Friday, September 20

Rosario Central 0
Chacarita Juniors 0

Saturday, September 21

Banfield 2 (Moreno y Fabianesi 49, Gordillo pen 88)
Newell's Old Boys 0

Lanus 0
Gimnasia LP 0

Union Santa Fe 0
Velez Sarsfield 1 (Valdemarin 61)

Sunday, September 22

Boca Juniors 3 (Delgado 13, Tevez 45, Ibarra 78)
Racing Club 4 (Bastia 57, Rodriguez og 63, Pavlovich 64, Gonzalez 85)

Estudiantes 1 (Farias 47)
Arsenal 2 (Piersimone 73, 81)

Independiente 1 (Pusineri 90)
River Plate 2 (Gonzalez 46, D'Alessandro 87)

Nueva Chicago 1 (Tilger 74)
Colon Santa Fe 1 (Carignano 45)

San Lorenzo 2 (Saja pen 12, Chatruc 87)
Olimpo 2 (Bustamante 16, Di Alessio 62)

Talleres Cordoba 5 (La Paglia 7, Quinteros 23, 28, Gonzalez 30, Real 77)
Huracan 0

Friday, September 27

Velez Sarsfield 3 (Valdemarin 31, 35, Gracian 44)
Banfield 0

Saturday, September 28

Colon Santa Fe 1 (Miglionico 89)
Union Santa Fe 0

Olimpo 2 (Bustamante 36, Garcia og 48)
Lanus 0

Racing Club 1 (Bedoya pen 56)
San Lorenzo 1 (Acosta 40)

Sunday, September 29

Arsenal 3 (S Gonzalez 41, pen 49, Piersimone 64)
Talleres Cordoba 0

Chacarita Juniors 1 (Ruggieri 47)
Nueva Chicago 0

Gimnasia LP 3 (Choy 14, San Esteban 54, Turienzo 65)
Estudiantes 1 (Maggiolo 36)

Huracan 0
Independiente 2 (Pusineri 37, Silvera 81)

Newell's Old Boys 1 (Sacripanti 54)
Boca Juniors 1 (Tevez 65)

River Plate 5 (D'Alessandro 51, pen 69, Dominguez 58, Demichelis 62, Cavenaghi 90)
Rosario Central 2 (Garce og 19, Barros Schelotto 77)

Wednesday, October 2

Banfield 1
Lanus 1
Continuation of game abandoned on August 25 because of crowd trouble

Friday, October 4

Independiente 3 (Pusineri 36, Insua pen 43, Silvera 51)
Arsenal 2 (Morales 9, S Gonzalez 12)

Saturday, October 5

Gimnasia LP 1 (Turienzo 65)
Olimpo 1 (Novarese 90)

Rosario Central 2 (Pino 5, Figueroa 10)
Huracan 2 (Comba 30, Alonso 35)

San Lorenzo 2 (Morel Rodriguez 19, Astudillo 53)
Newell's Old Boys 1 (Manso 1)

Sunday, October 6

Banfield 0
Colon Santa Fe 0

Boca Juniors 2 (Tevez 9, Barros Schelotto 75)
Velez Sarsfield 0

Lanus 2 (Bustos Montoya 47, 88)
Racing Club 1 (Gonzalez 35)

Nueva Chicago 1 (Carreno 81)
River Plate 3 (Gonzalez 14, 52, D'Alessandro 37)

Talleres Cordoba 2 (La Paglia pen 33, Devallis 88)
Estudiantes 1 (Farias 78)

Monday, October 7

Union Santa Fe 1 (Zapata 33)
Chacarita Juniors 2 (Romero 17, Ruggieri 81)

ARGENTINA – OPENING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Independiente	11	8	2	1	32	12	26
River Plate	11	7	3	1	22	8	24
Boca Juniors	11	6	3	2	19	9	21
San Lorenzo	11	5	4	2	16	13	19
Rosario Central	11	5	3	3	24	15	18
Velez Sarsfield	11	5	3	3	14	7	18
Chacarita Jnrs	11	5	2	4	12	13	17
Colon Santa Fe	11	4	5	2	14	16	17
Arsenal	11	4	3	4	15	13	15
Newell's OB	11	4	3	4	12	12	15
Union Santa Fe	11	4	3	4	11	12	15
Talleres Cordoba	11	3	4	4	11	14	13
Lanus	11	3	4	4	7	14	13
Racing Club	10	3	3	4	13	19	12
Olimpo	11	2	5	4	14	16	11
Banfield	11	2	5	4	7	10	11
Gimnasia LP	11	2	4	5	9	14	10
Nueva Chicago	10	1	4	5	7	12	7
Huracan	11	1	3	7	10	25	6
Estudiantes	11	1	2	8	8	23	5

LEADING GOALSCORERS

11 Andres Silvera (Independiente)
6 Cesar Carignano (Colon Santa Fe)
6 Carlos Tevez (Boca Juniors)

BOLIVIA

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 18: Bolivar 2 Real Potosi 1; Iberoamericana 0 Guabira 1; Independiente 2 The Strongest 1; Oriente 2 Blooming 4; Jorge Wilstermann 4 San Jose 2.
Aug 21: Real Potosi 3 Oriente 3.
Aug 25: Blooming 1 Bolivar 1; Guabira 2 Union Central 1; Mariscal Braun 1 Jorge Wilstermann 1; Real Potosi 1 Iberoamericana 0; The Strongest 4 Oriente 3.
Aug 31: Guabira 2 Mariscal Braun 1.
Sep 1: Independiente 0 Jorge Wilstermann 1; Union Central 1 Real Potosi 1; The Strongest 0 Bolivar 0; Oriente 4 San Jose 1.
Sep 3: Iberoamericana 2 Blooming 1.
Sep 7: The Strongest 3 Iberoamericana 1.
Sep 8: Blooming 4 Union Central 1; Mariscal Braun 2 Independiente 0; Real Potosi 4 Guabira 1; San Jose 0 Bolivar 3; Jorge Wilstermann 1 Oriente 2.
Sep 11: Guabira 1 Blooming 2; Iberoamericana 1 San Jose 2; Real Potosi 4 Mariscal Braun 1; Union Central 0 The Strongest 0.
Sep 15: Blooming 3 Real Potosi 1; Independiente 0 Bolivar 1; Mariscal Braun 2 Oriente 4; San Jose 2 Union Central 1; The Strongest 4 Guabira 0; Jorge Wilstermann 3 Iberoamericana 0.
Sep 22: Oriente 1 Independiente 0; Blooming 3 Mariscal Braun 1; Guabira 2 San Jose 1; Real Potosi 3 The Strongest 2; Union Central 1 Jorge Wilstermann 3.
Sep 28: Mariscal Braun 0 Bolivar 5.
Sep 29: Independiente 3 Union Central 3; Oriente 6 Iberoamericana 1; San Jose 2 Real Potosi 1; The Strongest 5 Blooming 0; Jorge Wilstermann 2 Guabira 1.
Oct 5: Bolivar 5 Iberoamericana 1.
Oct 6: Independiente 2 Guabira 0; Mariscal Braun 1 The Strongest 3; Oriente 3 Union Central 0; San Jose 3 Blooming 2; Jorge Wilstermann 2 Real Potosi 2.

BOLIVIA – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolivar	10	7	3	0	27	7	24
Blooming	12	7	1	4	31	26	22
The Strongest	12	6	3	3	27	14	21
Oriente	11	6	3	2	29	17	21
J Wilstermann	11	6	3	2	25	14	21
Real Potosi	12	5	4	3	24	18	19
San Jose	12	5	2	5	19	28	17
Guabira	12	4	3	5	14	21	15
Independiente	11	2	4	5	11	15	10
Mariscal Braun	11	2	2	7	12	25	8
Union Central	11	1	4	6	12	23	7
Iberoamericana	11	1	0	10	7	30	3

BRAZIL

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 17: Fluminense 3 Gremio 1; Internacional 1 Ponte Preta 0; Atletico Paranaense 2 Vasco da Gama 1.
Aug 18: Juventude 2 Santos 1; Guarani 1 Atletico Mineiro 4; Flamengo 1 Goias 1; Parana 2 Sao Paulo 3; Cruzeiro 0 Botafogo (Rio) 0; Portuguesa 0 Figueirense 0; Bahia 1 Coritiba 2; Gama 2 Vitoria 1; Sao Caetano 3 Corinthians 0.
Aug 21: Botafogo (Rio) 2 Internacional 2; Sao Paulo 0 Juventude 1; Atletico Mineiro 1 Fluminense 1; Paysandu 1 Portuguesa 2; Coritiba 2 Flamengo 1; Vitoria 1 Atletico Paranaense 1; Goias 1 Bahia 1; Santos 3 Figueirense 0.
Aug 22: Vasco da Gama 0 Gama 1; Palmeiras 3 Sao Caetano 2; Gremio 0 Guarani 2; Ponte Preta 2 Cruzeiro 0.
Aug 24: Flamengo 1 Paysandu 2; Internacional 2 Sao Paulo 2; Figueirense 0 Botafogo (Rio) 3.
Aug 25: Palmeiras 0 Atletico Mineiro 4; Fluminense 1 Santos 1; Coritiba 1 Corinthians 2; Portuguesa 1 Gama 0; Cruzeiro 2 Bahia 1; Vitoria 2 Juventude 1; Ponte Preta 1 Gremio 1; Goias 2 Vasco da Gama 4.
Aug 28: Guarani 1 Internacional 1; Juventude 2 Fluminense 0; Santos 2 Parana 1; Gama 2 Flamengo 1; Atletico Paranaense 1 Palmeiras 0; Corinthians 1 Cruzeiro 1; Bahia 1 Figueirense 2.
Aug 29: Sao Paulo 2 Goias 0; Gremio 0 Portuguesa 0; Atletico Mineiro 2 Vitoria 1.
Aug 31: Coritiba 2 Fluminense 0; Botafogo (Rio) 1 Gama 0; Corinthians 0 Atletico Paranaense 3; Internacional 3 Santos 0.
Sep 1: Flamengo 1 Cruzeiro 1; Sao Paulo 2 Gremio 0; Atletico Mineiro 0 Portuguesa 0; Parana 5 Palmeiras 1; Vitoria 5 Paysandu 1; Ponte Preta 0 Sao Caetano 1; Juventude 1 Vasco da Gama 0; Goias 1 Guarani 2.
Sep 4: Vasco da Gama 1 Atletico Mineiro 2; Flamengo 5 Fluminense 2; Palmeiras 2 Coritiba 2; Cruzeiro 3 Sao Paulo 1; Atletico Paranaense 2 Botafogo (Rio) 0; Paysandu 0 Corinthians 1; Bahia 3 Parana 2; Gama 0 Ponte Preta 0; Sao Caetano 2 Guarani 1.
Sep 5: Portuguesa 0 Internacional 2; Santos 3 Vitoria 0.
Sep 7: Vasco da Gama 1 Coritiba 0; Palmeiras 2 Gama 2; Sao Caetano 3 Sao Paulo 0; Atletico Mineiro 2 Ponte Preta 0; Goias 2 Botafogo 2.
Sep 8: Fluminense 4 Figueirense 3; Santos 2 Atletico Paranaense 2; Gremio 4 Corinthians 0; Parana 3 Flamengo 0; Vitoria 0 Internacional 0; Juventude 2 Bahia 1; Guarani 2 Paysandu 0.
Sep 11: Flamengo 3 Atletico Paranaense 2; Portuguesa 3 Sao Caetano 2; Internacional 3 Palmeiras 2; Coritiba 4 Santos 2; Bahia 1 Gremio 1; Ponte Preta 1 Parana 0; Figueirense 0 Vitoria 2; Paysandu 2 Vasco da Gama 0.
Sep 12: Botafogo (Rio) 0 Juventude 4; Corinthians 3 Goias 0; Cruzeiro 0 Guarani 2; Gama 1 Fluminense 2.
Sep 14: Internacional 2 Figueirense 4; Santos 2 Gremio 0; Parana 2 Atletico Paranaense 2; Palmeiras 1 Bahia 2.
Sep 15: Sao Paulo 6 Fluminense 0; Coritiba 3 Goias 1; Botafogo (Rio) 1 Vasco da Gama 1; Guarani 0 Corinthians 0; Sao Caetano 4 Gama 0; Vitoria 4 Portuguesa 3; Juventude 1 Atletico Mineiro 0; Cruzeiro 3 Paysandu 1.
Sep 18: Vasco da Gama 1 Santos 2; Portuguesa 2 Botafogo 0; Goias 3 Sao Caetano 0; Figueirense 3 Cruzeiro 1; Paysandu 1 Coritiba 1; Atletico Paranaense 1 Gama 3; Bahia 2 Sao Paulo 0; Ponte Preta 2 Palmeiras 0.
Sep 19: Gremio 2 Juventude 0; Corinthians 2 Vitoria 1; Atletico Mineiro 4 Parana 1.
Sep 21: Botafogo (Rio) 0 Coritiba 2; Portuguesa 0 Cruzeiro 1; Figueirense 1 Palmeiras 0; Santos 1 Goias 1.
Sep 22: Vasco da Gama 1 Internacional 1; Corinthians 2 Parana 1; Atletico Mineiro 0 Flamengo 3; Atletico Paranaense 1 Sao Paulo 1; Paysandu 4 Ponte Preta 3; Guarani 0 Juventude 0; Sao Caetano 1 Bahia 0; Gremio 4 Vitoria 0.
Sep 25: Sao Paulo 1 Atletico Mineiro 2; Cruzeiro 4 Vasco da Gama 0; Internacional 1 Bahia 0; Fluminense 0 Atletico Paranaense 1; Parana 1 Guarani 2; Vitoria 2 Sao Caetano 2; Ponte Preta 3 Figueirense 2; Juventude 0 Corinthians 1.
Sep 26: Gama 0 Santos 0; Coritiba 2 Portuguesa 0; Palmeiras 1 Paysandu 0; Flamengo 2 Gremio 3.
Sep 28: Internacional 1 Parana 2; Fluminense 2 Guarani 1; Bahia 1 Botafogo (Rio) 2; Cruzeiro 2 Juventude 1; Atletico Paranaense 0 Sao Caetano 1.
Sep 29: Vasco da Gama 4 Portuguesa 0; Sao Paulo 2 Corinthians 2; Paysandu 5 Atletico Mineiro 2; Ponte Preta 3 Flamengo 1; Figueirense 2 Gama 1; Goias 4 Gremio 1; Santos 1 Palmeiras 1.
Oct 2: Gremio 3 Paysandu 0; Botafogo (Rio) 2 Ponte Preta 1; Gama 1 Internacional 1; Sao Caetano 1 Coritiba 0; Palmeiras 1 Sao Paulo 1; Vitoria 2 Fluminense 1; Juventude 2 Goias 1; Flamengo 1 Bahia 1.
Oct 3: Parana 1 Cruzeiro 1; Corinthians 2 Santos 4; Atletico Mineiro 0 Figueirense 2.
Oct 5: Flamengo 2 Sao Paulo 3; Gama 2 Paysandu 0;

Palmeiras 2 Portuguesa 1; Goias 0 Atletico Paranaense 0; Guarani 1 Vasco da Gama 2.
Oct 8: Fluminense 3 Parana 2; Sao Paulo 3 Coritiba 1; Guarani 3 Gama 1.
Oct 9: Gremio 1 Botafogo (Rio) 1; Flamengo 2 Sao Caetano 0; Corinthians 2 Figueirense 2; Santos 3 Atletico Mineiro 2; Atletico Paranaense 0 Ponte Preta 1; Paysandu 3 Bahia 2; Vitoria 4 Cruzeiro 2; Juventude 1 Portuguesa 1; Goias 4 Palmeiras 2.

BRAZIL – NATIONAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventude	16	9	3	4	19	11	30
Sao Caetano	16	9	2	5	26	17	29
Santos	16	8	5	3	29	21	29
Sao Paulo	17	8	4	5	32	24	28
Corinthians	16	8	4	4	23	25	28
Coritiba	15	8	2	5	23	17	26
Guarani	15	7	4	4	20	15	25
At Mineiro	16	7	3	6	27	23	24
Vitoria	16	7	3	6	29	26	24
Ponte Preta	15	7	2	6	19	15	23
At Paranaense	16	6	5	5	23	17	23
Gremio	16	6	5	5	25	21	23
Cruzeiro	15	6	5	4	23	24	23
Figueirense	15	6	3	6	21	24	21
Internacional	15	5	6	4	23	21	21
Fluminense	15	6	2	7	24	31	20
Flamengo	16	5	4	7	27	26	19
Gama	17	5	4	8	16	21	19
Portuguesa	16	5	4	7	15	22	19
Botafogo (Rio)	16	4	7	5	17	22	19
Vasco da Gama	15	5	2	8	20	22	17
Goias	16	4	5	7	25	29	17
Paysandu	15	5	1	9	22	32	16
Bahia	16	4	3	9	18	25	15
Palmeiras	17	3	6	8	20	33	15
Parana	15	4	2	9	25	27	14

CHILE

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 17: Union Espanola 2 Rangers 0; Palestino 0 Colo Colo 0.
Aug 18: U de Chile 1 Dep Temuco 2; U Catolica 2 Santiago Wanderers 2; Huachipato 1 Audax Italiano 1; Cobreloa 1 Dep Concepcion 0; Cobresal 3 San Felipe 2; Coquimbo Unido 2 Santiago Morning 1.
Aug 24: Huachipato 1 U de Chile 2; Santiago Wanderers 3 Palestino 1; San Felipe 2 Union Espanola 1.
Aug 25: Colo Colo 1 Cobreloa 2; Dep Temuco 1 Cobresal 2; Audax Italiano 2 Dep Concepcion 2; Santiago Morning 1 U Catolica 2.
Sep 14: Union Espanola 2 Dep Temuco 1; Palestino 0 Santiago Morning 2.
Sep 15: U de Chile 2 Audax Italiano 2; Cobresal 2 Huachipato 2; Coquimbo Unido 2 San Felipe 0; U Catolica 3 Rangers 0; Cobreloa 2 Santiago Wanderers 0.
Sep 21: Audax Italiano 1 Colo Colo 2; San Felipe 1 U Catolica 2.
Sep 22: Huachipato 1 Union Espanola 3; Dep Temuco 1 Coquimbo Unido 1; Rangers 3 Palestino 2; Santiago Wanderers 2 Dep Concepcion 2; Santiago Morning 0 Cobreloa 4; U de Chile 1 Cobresal 1.
Sep 28: Palestino 0 San Felipe 2; U Catolica 5 Dep Temuco 1.
Sep 29: Union Espanola 0 U de Chile 1; Cobreloa 4 Rangers 0; Cobresal 1 Audax Italiano 0; Coquimbo Unido 1 Huachipato 0; Dep Concepcion 1 Santiago Morning 0; Colo Colo 0 Santiago Wanderers 2.
Oct 5: Dep Temuco 1 Palestino 1; San Felipe 3 Cobreloa 1; Santiago Morning 1 Colo Colo 5; Rangers 1 Dep Concepcion 2; Audax Italiano 1 Santiago Wanderers 1.
Oct 6: U de Chile 1 Coquimbo Unido 0; Huachipato 3 U Catolica 1; Cobresal 3 Union Espanola 2.

CHILE: CLOSING – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Huachipato	8	3	2	3	14	10	11
Colo Colo	7	3	2	2	10	7	11
Dep Concepcion	7	2	3	2	9	9	9
Dep Temuco	8	1	2	5	8	17	5

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cobreloa	8	7	0	1	19	6	21
Cobresal	8	5	3	0	15	10	18
U Catolica	8	5	2	1	18	10	17
Audax Italiano	8	1	4	3	10	12	7

GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Coquimbo Unido	7	3	1	3	7	6	10
Sant Morning	8	1	2	5	7	16	5
Palestino	8	0	3	5	6	15	3
Rangers	7	1	0	6	5	19	3

GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
U de Chile	8	4	3	1	13	7	15
Union Espanola	8	4	1	3	13	9	13
Sant Wanderers	8	3	3	2	12	11	12
San Felipe	8	3	1	4	11	13	10

COLOMBIA

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 11: Bucaramanga 1 Once Caldas 1; Indep Santa Fe 1 Tulua 1; Tolima 4 America 0; Magdalena 2 At Junior 0; Real Cartagena 0 Indep Medellin 1; Dep Cali 4 At Huila 0; Quindio 1 Millonarios 0; Pereira 1 Dep Pasto 2.
Aug 14: At Nacional 1 Envigado 0.
Aug 18: Pereira 0 Bucaramanga 1; Dep Pasto 2 Quindio 1; Millonarios 0 Dep Cali 1; At Huila 2 Real Cartagena 1; Indep Medellin 1 Magdalena 0; At Junior 1 At Nacional 1; Envigado 3 Tolima 0; America 1 Indep Santa Fe 0; Tulua 1 Once Caldas 0.
Aug 24: Once Caldas 3 America 0.
Aug 25: Bucaramanga 1 Tulua 0; Indep Santa Fe 4 Envigado 0; Tolima 2 At Junior 1; At Nacional 1 Indep Medellin 1; Magdalena 2 At Huila 2; Real Cartagena 1 Millonarios 0; Dep Cali 3 Dep Pasto 0; Quindio 2 Pereira 1.
Aug 31: Envigado 1 Once Caldas 1.
Sep 1: Quindio 1 Bucaramanga 3; Pereira 3 Dep Cali 1; Dep Pasto 1 Real Cartagena 0; Millonarios 1 Magdalena 1; At Huila 0 At Nacional 1; Indep Medellin 1 Tolima 2; At Junior 1 Indep Santa Fe 1.
Sep 4: America 3 Tulua 1.
Sep 8: Bucaramanga 0 America 1; Tulua 1 Envigado 1; Once Caldas 1 At Junior 1; Indep Santa Fe 0 Indep Medellin 0; Tolima 0 At Huila 0; At Nacional 1 Millonarios 1; Magdalena 3 Dep Pasto 1; Real Cartagena 2 Pereira 0; Dep Cali 2 Quindio 0.
Sep 14: Envigado 0 America 1.
Sep 15: Dep Cali 3 Bucaramanga 2; Quindio 3 Real Cartagena 1; Pereira 1 Magdalena 0; Dep Pasto 1 At Nacional 1; Millonarios 1 Tolima 1; At Huila 1 Indep Santa Fe 0; Indep Medellin 2 Once Caldas 2; At Junior 2 Tulua 2.
Sep 22: Bucaramanga 2 Envigado 1; America 1 At Junior 1; Tulua 0 Indep Medellin 1; Once Caldas 0 At Huila 0; Indep Santa Fe 3 Millonarios 2; Tolima 0 Dep Pasto 2; At Nacional 2 Pereira 2; Magdalena 0 Quindio 0; Real Cartagena 0 Dep Cali 1.
Sep 29: Real Cartagena 1 Bucaramanga 1; Dep Cali 3 Magdalena 1; Quindio 1 At Nacional 0; Pereira 2 Tolima 2; Dep Pasto 4 Indep Santa Fe 1; Millonarios 1 Once Caldas 1; At Huila 0 Tulua 2; Indep Medellin 0 America 0; At Junior 1 Envigado 1.
Oct 2: Bucaramanga 2 At Junior 2; Envigado 1 Indep Medellin 1; America 1 At Huila 1; Once Caldas 1 Dep Pasto 1; Indep Santa Fe 0 Pereira 0; Tolima 2 Quindio 0; At Nacional 1 Dep Cali 3; Magdalena 1 Real Cartagena 1.

COLOMBIA – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dep Cali	14	10	2	2	26	9	32
Dep Pasto	14	8	2	4	23	20	26
Indep Santa Fe	14	6	4	4	22	16	22
Bucaramanga	14	6	4	4	23	21	22
Quindio	14	6	2	6	12	14	20
Tolima	14	5	5	4	20	19	20
Magdalena	14	5	4	5	15	18	19
At Nacional	14	4	7	3	15	13	19
Once Caldas	14	3	10	1	13	9	19
America	14	5	3	6	10	15	18
Indep Medellin	14	4	6	4	11	12	18
Tulua	13	4	4	5	13	14	16
Real Cartagena	14	4	4	6	11	13	16
Pereira	14	4	4	6	15	19	16
At Huila	14	3	5	6	10	17	14
At Junior	14	2	8	4	16	17	14
Envigado	14	3	4	7	13	17	13
Millonarios	13	2	4	7	15	20	10

ECUADOR

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 7: Emelec 1 Olmedo 3; El Nacional 3 Dep Quito 3; LDU Quito 1 Dep Cuenca 1; Aucas 1 Barcelona 1; Macara 1 Espoli 1.
Aug 11: Barcelona 1 Emelec 0; Espoli 1 El Nacional 2; Dep Quito 2 LDU Quito 1; Dep Cuenca 5 Aucas 1; Olmedo 1 Macara 1.
Aug 16: Dep Cuenca 1 Barcelona 0.
Aug 17: LDU Quito 2 Espoli 0.
Aug 18: Emelec 3 Macara 2; El Nacional 1 Olmedo 1; Aucas 2 Dep Quito 2.
Aug 24: Espoli 1 LDU Quito 6; Dep Quito 2 Aucas 2.
Aug 25: Barcelona 1 Dep Cuenca 0; Macara 1 Emelec 3; Olmedo 0 El Nacional 3.
Aug 31: El Nacional 0 Espoli 0; LDU Quito 0 Dep Quito 2; Macara 0 Olmedo 0.
Sep 1: Emelec 3 Barcelona 1; Aucas 3 Dep Cuenca 1.
Sep 4: Barcelona 2 Aucas 0; Dep Quito 1 El Nacional 0; Espoli 3 Macara 2; Dep Cuenca 1 LDU Quito 0; Olmedo 1 Emelec 1.
Sep 8: Emelec 4 Aucas 2; LDU Quito 4 Barcelona 3; El Nacional 3 Dep Cuenca 1; Macara 1 Dep Quito 2; Olmedo 2 Espoli 2.
Sep 15: Dep Cuenca 1 Macara 0; Barcelona 0 El Nacional 0; Espoli 2 Emelec 0; Aucas 0 LDU Quito 1; Dep Quito 1 Olmedo 0.
Sep 22: Espoli 2 Dep Quito 2; El Nacional 1 Aucas 1; Macara 3 Barcelona 0; Olmedo 1 Dep Cuenca 1; Emelec 3 LDU Quito 1.
Sep 27: Dep Cuenca 3 Espoli 1.
Sep 29: Barcelona 2 Olmedo 3; Dep Quito 1 Emelec 0; LDU Quito 1 El Nacional 1; Aucas 2 Macara 1.
Oct 5: Espoli 1 Barcelona 3; Emelec 0 El Nacional 1; Macara 0 LDU Quito 0; Olmedo 2 Aucas 2; Dep Quito 2 Dep Cuenca 0.

ECUADOR – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dep Quito	17	10	7	0	33	18	37
El Nacional	17	8	7	2	26	13	31
LDU Quito	17	8	4	5	27	19	28
Dep Cuenca	17	8	4	5	24	21	28
Emelec	17	6	4	7	27	27	22
Olmedo	17	3	9	5	18	24	18
Espoli	17	4	6	7	26	33	18
Barcelona	17	4	5	8	20	25	17
Aucas	17	2	8	7	24	34	14
Macara	17	2	6	9	16	27	12

PARAGUAY

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 16: Libertad 1 Sport Colombia 2.
Aug 17: Sol de America 1 Olimpia 1.
Aug 18: Guarani 4 San Lorenzo 1; Sportivo Luqueno 0 12 de Octubre 1; Recoleta 0 Cerro Porteno 1.
Aug 23: Cerro Porteno 2 Sol de America 0.
Aug 25: 12 de Octubre 3 San Lorenzo 1; Sport Colombia 0 Sportivo Luqueno 3; Recoleta 1 Guarani 1; Olimpia 0 Libertad 3.
Aug 30: Libertad 1 Cerro Porteno 1.
Sep 1: Guarani 0 12 de Octubre 1; San Lorenzo 3 Sport Colombia 1; Sportivo Luqueno 1 Olimpia 1; Sol de America 0 Recoleta 1.
Sep 6: Sportivo Luqueno 2 Cerro Porteno 2.
Sep 7: Sol de America 1 Guarani 1; Libertad 1 Recoleta 1.
Sep 8: San Lorenzo 1 Olimpia 2; 12 de Octubre 1 Sport Colombia 0.
Sep 12: Guarani 2 Sport Colombia 1; Recoleta 0 Sportivo Luqueno 0; Olimpia 4 12 de Octubre 2.
Sep 14: Cerro Porteno 0 San Lorenzo 1; Sol de America 3 Libertad 2.
Sep 27: Sportivo Luqueno 1 Sol de America 0.
Sep 29: San Lorenzo 1 Recoleta 1; 12 de Octubre 1 Cerro Porteno 2; Sport Colombia 1 Olimpia 4; Libertad 4 Guarani 2.

PARAGUAY – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olimpia	12	6	2	4	23	18	20
Sportivo Luqueno	12	5	5	2	12	7	20
Libertad	12	5	4	3	20	11	19
Guarani	12	5	3	4	17	15	18
12 de Octubre	12	5	2	5	16	15	17
San Lorenzo	12	5	2	5	12	19	17
Cerro Porteno	12	4	4	4	15	13	16
Recoleta	12	4	4	4	12	13	16
Sport Colombia	12	3	2	7	14	24	11
Sol de America	12	2	4	6	10	16	10

PERU

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 17: Sporting Cristal 5 Coronel Bolognesi 1.
Aug 18: Universitario 2 Coopsol Trujillo 0; Juan Aurich 0 Alianza Lima 2; Melgar 2 Sport Boys 2; Dep Wanka 1 Alianza Atletico 1; Cienciano 3 Estudiantes 0.
Aug 25: Sport Boys 2 Cienciano 1; Alianza Atletico 2 Universitario 1; Coronel Bolognesi 2 Juan Aurich 1; Alianza Lima 0 Sporting Cristal 0; Estudiantes 3 Melgar 0; Coopsol Trujillo 0 Dep Wanka 1.
Aug 30: Universitario 4 Dep Wanka 1.
Aug 31: Sporting Cristal 2 Melgar 0.
Sep 1: Sport Boys 1 Alianza Atletico 2; Coronel Bolognesi 0 Alianza Lima 0; Estudiantes 9 Coopsol Trujillo 1; Juan Aurich 2 Cienciano 1.
Sep 8: Alianza Atletico 1 Coronel Bolognesi 0; Alianza Lima 1 Estudiantes 0; Cienciano 5 Universitario 2; Dep Wanka 0 Sporting Cristal 0; Coopsol Trujillo 1 Sport Boys 0; Melgar 0 Juan Aurich 0.
Sep 15: Alianza Atletico 2 Coopsol Trujillo 0; Coronel Bolognesi 1 Estudiantes 0; Universitario 1 Sporting Cristal 1; Cienciano 4 Melgar 1; Juan Aurich 0 Dep Wanka 2.
Sep 21: Sporting Cristal 3 Juan Aurich 0.
Sep 22: Alianza Lima 2 Alianza Atletico 2; Estudiantes 1 Sport Boys 1; Melgar 1 Universitario 0; Dep Wanka 3 Cienciano 3; Coopsol Trujillo 0 Coronel Bolognesi 4.
Sep 29: Universitario 0 Juan Aurich 0; Alianza Atletico 1 Estudiantes 0; Sport Boys 0 Coronel Bolognesi 1; Cienciano 2 Sporting Cristal 3; Melgar 2 Dep Wanka 0.

PERU – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sporting Cristal	12	8	4	0	28	5	28
Alianza Atletico	12	7	3	2	17	11	24
Alianza Lima	10	5	4	1	14	7	19
Cienciano	12	5	2	5	24	25	17
Coronel Bolognesi	12	5	2	5	13	14	17
Estudiantes	12	4	4	4	19	11	16
Dep Wanka	12	3	7	2	13	14	16
Sport Boys	11	4	3	4	18	12	15
Universitario	12	3	3	6	15	20	12
Melgar	12	2	5	5	10	18	11
Coopsol Trujillo	11	2	2	7	6	26	8
Juan Aurich	12	1	3	8	5	19	6

URUGUAY

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Sep 22: Penarol 2 Central Espanol 1.
Sep 27: Nacional 2 Central Espanol 2.
Sep 28: Danubio 1 Defensor 1.
Sep 29: Penarol 2 Dep Maldonado 1; Wanderers 1 Villa Espanola 1; Fenix 1 Plaza 0.
Oct 5: Dep Maldonado 0 Plaza 2; Defensor 2 Penarol 3.
Oct 6: Villa Espanola 3 Fenix 3; Danubio 3 Nacional 1.
Oct 8: Central Espanol 0 Wanderers 1.

URUGUAY – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Penarol*	3	3	0	0	7	4	6
Danubio	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Fenix	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Wanderers	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Plaza	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Villa Espanola	2	0	2	0	4	4	2
Defensor	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Central Espanol	3	0	1	2	3	5	1
Nacional	2	0	1	1	3	5	1
Dep Maldonado	2	0	0	2	1	4	0

**3pts deducted for crowd trouble during a home match in Closing 2001*

VENEZUELA

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 18: Caracas 2 Estudiantes 3; Mineros Guayana 0 Carabobo 0; Dep Tachira 2 Nacional 0; Trujillanos 1 Ital-Chacao 2; Maracaibo 1 Monagas 0.
Aug 25: Maracaibo 0 Caracas 0; Monagas 4 Trujillanos 1; Ital-Chacao 1 Dep Tachira 1; Nacional 2 Mineros Guayana 1; Carabobo 1 Estudiantes 1.
Sep 1: Caracas 1 Carabobo 0; Estudiantes 1 Nacional 0; Mineros Guayana 3 Ital-Chacao 1; Dep Tachira 1 Monagas 0; Trujillanos 4 Maracaibo 1.
Sep 15: Trujillanos 1 Caracas 2; Maracaibo 1 Dep

Tachira 1; Monagas 0 Mineros Guayana 1; Ital-Chacao 3 Estudiantes 1; Nacional 0 Carabobo 0.
Sep 22: Caracas 1 Nacional 0; Carabobo 0 Ital-Chacao 0; Estudiantes 2 Monagas 1; Mineros Guayana 1 Maracaibo 1; Dep Tachira 2 Trujillanos 1.
Sep 29: Dep Tachira 2 Caracas 2; Trujillanos 1 Mineros Guayana 1; Maracaibo 2 Estudiantes 0; Ital-Chacao 0 Nacional 0.
Oct 1: Monagas 2 Carabobo 1.
Oct 6: Caracas 2 Ital-Chacao 2; Nacional 1 Monagas 3; Carabobo 3 Maracaibo 1; Estudiantes 2 Trujillanos 1; Mineros Guayana 2 Dep Tachira 0.

VENEZUELA – OPENING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Caracas	9	5	3	1	16	9	18
Estudiantes	9	4	3	2	12	12	15
Dep Tachira	9	3	5	1	12	10	14
Mineros Guayana	9	3	4	2	11	10	13
Monagas	9	4	0	5	13	12	12
Ital-Chacao	9	2	5	2	12	12	11
Nacional	9	3	2	4	7	10	11
Maracaibo	9	2	4	3	9	12	10
Carabobo	9	1	5	3	8	9	8
Trujillanos	9	2	1	6	13	17	7

CENTRAL & NORTH AMERICA

CONCACAF CHAMPIONS CUP

Final

Sep 18 - Estadio Azul, Mexico City
Morelia (Mex) 0
Pachuca (Mex) 1 (Silvani 48)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Ramos Rizo (Mex)

MEXICO

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Sep 11: Jaguares 1 Atlante 1; At Celaya 2 Toluca 2; America 1 Morelia 1; Puebla 0 Pumas UNAM 1; Pachuca 1 Guadalajara 1; Gallos Blancos 3 Veracruz 2; Atlas 1 Monterrey 2; Tigres 0 San Luis 4.
Sep 12: Tecos UAG 2 Santos 1; Cruz Azul 2 Necaxa 1.
Sep 14: Pumas UNAM 1 America 3; Veracruz 2 Puebla 2; Toluca 1 Atlas 0; Morelia 2 Jaguares 0; Monterrey 2 Gallos Blancos 0; San Luis 2 Pachuca 4.
Sep 15: Guadalajara 3 At Celaya 2; Atlante 2 Cruz Azul 0; Santos 3 Tigres 1; Necaxa 1 Tecos UAG 1.
Sep 21: At Celaya 2 Atlas 1; Jaguares 0 Pumas UNAM 2; Cruz Azul 1 Morelia 3; Tigres 3 Necaxa 2; Puebla 2 Monterrey 1.
Sep 22: Pachuca 0 Santos 0; Guadalajara 1 San Luis 1; Gallos Blancos 0 Toluca 2; America 5 Veracruz 1; Tecos UAG 2 Atlante 2.
Sep 25: America 3 Pachuca 0.
Sep 28: Toluca 5 Puebla 0; Veracruz 3 Jaguares 0; Monterrey 0 America 0; Santos 4 Guadalajara 2; San Luis 1 At Celaya 1; Atlas 2 Gallos Blancos 5.
Sep 29: Morelia 1 Tecos UAG 0; Pumas UNAM 2 Cruz Azul 2; Atlante 2 Tigres 2; Necaxa 0 Pachuca 2.
Oct 5: Jaguares 0 Monterrey 0; At Celaya 2 Gallos Blancos 0; Cruz Azul 5 Veracruz 1; Tigres 2 Morelia 1; Puebla 2 Atlas 1; San Luis 1 Santos 1.
Oct 6: Pachuca 1 Atlante 1; Guadalajara 0 Necaxa 0; Tecos UAG 4 Pumas UNAM 3; America 1 Toluca 2.

MEXICO: OPENING – GROUP 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Toluca	11	8	2	1	28	11	26
America	11	8	2	1	23	8	26
At Celaya	11	4	3	4	16	18	15
Puebla	11	3	3	5	11	18	12
Atlas	11	3	0	8	17	22	9

GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tecos UAG	11	5	4	2	18	15	19
Tigres	11	5	2	4	21	21	17
Pumas UNAM	11	5	2	4	16	22	17
Monterrey	11	4	3	4	12	10	15
Pachuca	10	2	5	3	12	15	11

GROUP 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Morelia	11	7	1	3	19	12	22
Cruz Azul	10	4	2	4	16	14	14
San Luis	11	3	5	3	13	11	14
Necaxa	11	3	2	6	15	18	11
Jaguares	11	2	4	5	10	18	10

GROUP 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guadalajara	11	2	7	2	15	13	13
Santos	11	3	3	5	13	16	12
Gallos Blancos	11	3	3	5	13	17	12
Atlante	11	2	5	4	15	19	11
Veracruz	11	2	4	5	19	24	10

LEADING GOALSCORERS
14 Jose Cardozo (Toluca)
8 Jared Borgetti (Santos)
7 Alexsandro Fernandes (Morelia)
6 Diego Latorre (At Celaya)

UNITED STATES

Sep 12: MetroStars 0 DC United 1.
Sep 14: Los Angeles Galaxy 1 San Jose Earthquakes 0; Columbus Crew 2 Chicago Fire 0; DC United 2 MetroStars 1; Kansas City Wizards 1 Colorado Rapids 2; Dallas Burn 1 New England Revolution 2.
Sep 19: DC United 3 Dallas Burn 4 (aet).
Sep 20: Colorado Rapids 1 Kansas City Wizards 1 (aet).
Sep 21: San Jose Earthquakes 0 Los Angeles Galaxy 1; New England Revolution 3 MetroStars 0.
Sep 22: Chicago Fire 2 Columbus Crew 1.

EASTERN CONFERENCE – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
New England	28	12	2	14	49	49	38
Columbus Crew	28	11	5	12	44	43	38
Chicago Fire	28	11	4	13	43	38	37
MetroStars	28	11	2	15	41	47	35
DC United	28	9	5	14	31	40	32

WESTERN CONFERENCE – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
LA Galaxy	28	16	3	9	44	33	51
San Jose	28	14	3	11	45	35	45
Dallas Burn	28	12	7	9	44	43	43
Colorado Rapids	28	13	4	11	43	48	43
Kansas City	28	9	9	10	37	45	36

Conference winners qualified automatically for the quarter-finals. The other six berths went to the sides with most points apart from the two winners.

TOP GOALSCORERS*
24 Carlos Ruiz (Los Angeles Galaxy)
23 Taylor Twellman (New England Revolution)
16 Jeff Cunningham (Columbus Crew)
14 Ariel Graziani (San Jose Earthquakes)
14 Ante Razov (Chicago Fire)
**Regular season only*

Quarter-finals

(best of three)
Sep 25: Dallas Burn 4 Colorado Rapids 2.
Sep 28: Colorado Rapids 1 Dallas Burn 0.
Oct 2: Dallas Burn 1 Colorado Rapids 1.
Series drawn; Colorado won by scoring first in special extra-time period

Sep 25: Los Angeles Galaxy 3 Kansas City Wizards 2.
Sep 28: Kansas City Wizards 4 Los Angeles Galaxy 1.
Oct 2: Los Angeles Galaxy 5 Kansas City Wizards 2.
Los Angeles won series 2-1

Sep 25: San Jose Earthquakes 1 Columbus Crew 2.
Sep 28: Columbus Crew 2 San Jose Earthquakes 1.
Columbus won series 2-0

Sep 26: New England Revolution 2 Chicago Fire 0.
Sep 29: Chicago Fire 2 New England Revolution 1.
Oct 2: New England Revolution 2 Chicago Fire 0.
New England won series 2-1

Semi-finals

(best of three)
Oct 5: Los Angeles Galaxy 4 Colorado Rapids 0.
Oct 9: Colorado Rapids 0 Los Angeles Galaxy 1.
Los Angeles won series 2-0

Oct 6: New England Revolution 0 Columbus Crew 0.
Oct 9: Columbus Crew 0 New England Revolution 1.
Oct 12: New England Revolution 2 Columbus Crew 2.
New England won series 1-0

AFRICA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Group A

September 14

TP Mazembe (DRC) 0
Al Ahly (Egy) 0
Ref: Abdulkadir (Tan)

September 15

Raja Casablanca (Mor) 2 (Abdessamad 60, Jrindou pen 78)
Jeanne d'Arc (Sen) 1 (Ngom 26)
HT: 0-1

October 6

Jeanne d'Arc 2 (Diouf 78, Guey 90)
Al Ahly 1 (Belal 89)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Guirat (Tun)

Raja Casablanca 1 (Abdessamad 33)
TP Mazembe 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Shelmani (Lby)

GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Raja Casablanca	5	4	0	1	7	5	12
TP Mazembe	5	2	1	2	3	2	7
Jeanne d'Arc	5	2	0	3	6	7	6
Al Ahly	5	1	1	3	4	6	4

Group B

September 13

Zamalek (Egy) 3 (Abdel Ghany pen 65, Hassan 71, Emam pen 77)
Costa do Sol (Moz) 0
HT: 0-0

September 15

ASEC Abidjan (IvC) 3 (Bakari Kone 44, Koutouan 76, N'Dri 89)
Esperance (Tun) 1 (Jelassi 4)
HT: 1-1

October 5

ASEC Abidjan 1 (Dansoko 53)
Zamalek 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Guezzaz (Mor)

October 6

Esperance 4 (Traore 40, 44, Sahbani 48, Laroussi 59)
Costa do Sol 1 (Mavo 68)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Shelmani (Lby)

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zamalek	5	3	1	1	9	3	10
Esperance	5	3	1	1	9	5	10
ASEC Abidjan	5	3	0	2	10	6	9
Costa do Sol	5	0	0	5	1	15	0

CUP-WINNERS CUP

Quarter-finals, 1st legs

Sep 1: Al Mourada (Sud) 0 AS Police (Con) 1; Asante Kotoko (Gha) 3 Al Mehalla (Egy) 0; AS Vita Club (DRC) 1 Wydad Casablanca (Mor) 0; US Transfoot (Mad) 1 USM Alger (Alg) 3.

Quarter-finals, 2nd legs

Sep 14: Al Mehalla 4 Asante Kotoko 2 *Kotoko 5-4 on agg.*
Sep 15: AS Police 3 Al Mourada 0 *Police 4-0 on agg;* USM Alger 8 US Transfoot 2 *USM 11-3 on agg;* Wydad Casablanca 3 AS Vita Club 1 *Wydad 3-2 on agg.*

Semi-finals, 1st legs

Oct 6: Asante Kotoko 4 AS Police 0; Wydad Casablanca 0 USM Alger 0.

CAF CUP

Quarter-finals, 1st legs

Aug 31: Etoile Sahel (Tun) 2 Tonnerre Yaounde (Cam) 1; Satellite (IvC) 2 Rayon Sport (Rwa) 0.
Sep 1: ASA (Mad) 0 Al Masry (Egy) 1; JS Kabylie (Alg) 2 Djoliba (Mli) 1.

Quarter-finals, 2nd legs

Sep 13: Al Masry 2 ASA 0 *Al Masry 3-0 on agg.*
Sep 15: Djoliba 0 JS Kabylie 0 *Kabylie 2-1 on agg;* Rayon Sport 1 Satellite 2 *Satellite 4-1 on agg;* Tonnerre Yaounde 1 Etoile Sahel 0 *Agg 2-2. Tonnerre on away goals.*

Semi-finals, 1st legs

Oct 4: Al Masry 1 JS Kabylie 0.
Oct 6: Tonnerre Yaounde 1 Satellite 0.

ASIA

JAPAN

SECOND STAGE

Sep 7: FC Tokyo 1 Gamba Osaka 0; Kashima Antlers 1 Jubilo Iwata 2; Kashiwa Reysol 1 Nagoya Grampus Eight 1 (aet); Yokohama F Marinos 1 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 2; Shimizu S-Pulse 1 JEF United Ichihara 0; Kyoto Purple Sanga 1 Consadole Sapporo 0.
Sep 8: Urawa Reds 1 Vegalta Sendai 0 (aet); Vissel Kobe 0 Tokyo Verdy 1969 2.
Sep 14: Jubilo Iwata 1 Urawa Reds 2; Vegalta Sendai 1 Yokohama F Marinos 0; Kashiwa Reysol 0 Kyoto Purple Sanga 1; Nagoya Grampus Eight 3 JEF United Ichihara 1; Gamba Osaka 2 Shimizu S-Pulse 1 (aet); Sanfrecce Hiroshima 2 FC Tokyo 1 (aet).
Sep 15: Consadole Sapporo 1 Vissel Kobe 2; Tokyo Verdy 1969 2 Kashima Antlers 3.
Sep 18: Kashima Antlers 2 Kyoto Purple Sanga 1; Urawa Reds 1 Kashiwa Reysol 1 (aet); JEF United Ichihara 3 Vegalta Sendai 1; FC Tokyo 2 Tokyo Verdy 1969 1; Yokohama F Marinos 1 Consadole Sapporo 0 (aet); Shimizu S-Pulse 0 Jubilo Iwata 2; Gamba Osaka 1 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 0; Vissel Kobe 2 Nagoya Grampus Eight 0.
Sep 21: Nagoya Grampus Eight 0 Gamba Osaka 1; Tokyo Verdy 1969 1 Yokohama F Marinos 1; Kashiwa Reysol 1 Kashima Antlers 0; Vegalta Sendai 3 Shimizu S-Pulse 1; Consadole Sapporo 1 Urawa Reds 2; Kyoto Purple Sanga 2 Vissel Kobe 1 (aet).
Sep 22: Jubilo Iwata 6 FC Tokyo 1; Sanfrecce Hiroshima 1 JEF United Ichihara 0.
Sep 28: Yokohama F Marinos 2 FC Tokyo 1; Vissel Kobe 3 Gamba Osaka 2 (aet); Kashima Antlers 3 JEF United Ichihara 2; Tokyo Verdy 1969 3 Nagoya Grampus Eight 2; Urawa Reds 2 Shimizu S-Pulse 1 (aet); Kashiwa Reysol 1 Vegalta Sendai 0.
Sep 29: Kyoto Purple Sanga 2 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 0; Consadole Sapporo 0 Jubilo Iwata 1 (aet).

JAPAN – SECOND STAGE

	P	W1	W2	D	L	F	A	Pts
Jubilo Iwata	6	4	1	0	1	13	4	14
Urawa Reds	6	2	3	1	0	10	5	13
Kashima Antlers	6	4	0	0	2	11	9	12
Gamba Osaka	6	3	1	0	2	10	6	11
Kyoto PS	6	3	1	0	2	7	8	11
Tokyo Verdy	6	3	0	1	2	14	8	10
Kashiwa Reysol	6	2	0	3	1	6	5	9
FC Tokyo	6	3	0	0	3	7	11	9
Vissel Kobe	6	2	1	0	3	8	8	8
Sanfrecce H	6	2	1	0	3	6	7	8
Grampus Eight	6	2	0	1	3	9	8	7
Vegalta Sendai	6	2	0	0	4	6	8	6
Yokohama FM	6	1	1	1	3	6	9	6
JEF United	6	1	0	0	5	6	10	3
Shimizu S-Pulse	6	1	0	0	5	4	12	3
Consadole Sapp	6	0	0	1	5	4	9	1

W1 = win in 90mins – 3pts; W2 = win in extra time – 2pts; Draw = 1pt

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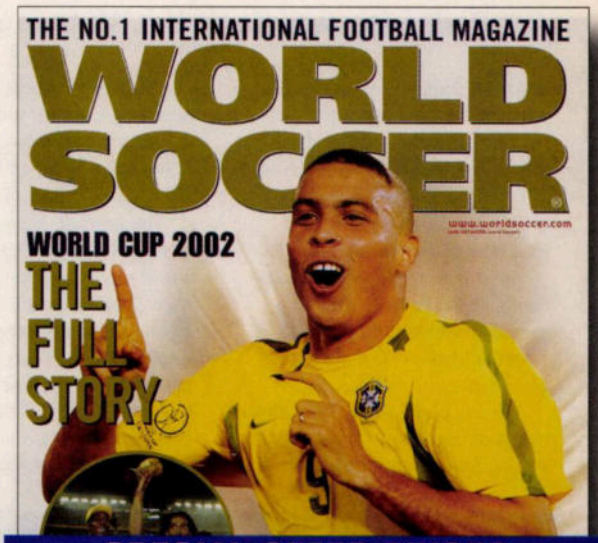

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Magical, magnetic Madrid

Keir Radnedge reports on the 'Mother of all debuts' by Ronaldo

SPANISH football has rarely been better served by players and teams right across the board. Yet it remains impossible, despite everyone else's irritation, to escape the magnetic grip on the football public of Real Madrid and Ronaldo.

After the Brazilian's remarkable debut, sports daily *Marca* had it exactly right with its headline: "Debuta Madre!" The mother of all debuts.

No one could argue. After all the weeks of uncertainty about Ronaldo's signing from Internazionale in the first place, then about his fitness, he appeared just after the hour against Alaves and scored twice in a 5-2 win in front of a wildly ecstatic home crowd in the Estadio Bernabeu.

The Brazilian appeared in place of Javier Portillo with Madrid 2-1 ahead thanks to first-half goals from Zinedine Zidane and Luis Figo (penalty) and a penalty save from Iker Casillas. He had been on the pitch only two minutes when confusion in the Alaves defence left him clear to chest down a left-wing cross and fire home his first goal. Figo then scored another for Madrid before Ronaldo accepted a neat pass from Steve McManaman to strike his second for the European champions.

Coach Vicente Del Bosque sat impassively as ever in his touchline dug-out. He was happy with victory and had probably felt one of the least pressured spectators. Signing Ronaldo had not been his decision. Pressure of business and speculation had also induced Madrid to push Ronaldo into action probably sooner than Del Bosque would have chosen. Whatever, he was in a no-lose situation. If Ronaldo's debut had gone wrong, he would not have been the man to blame. That would have been down to sports director Jorge Valdano. Del Bosque, to be fair, did not go out of his way to claim any credit, either.

Bowing to the inevitable...Ronaldo milks the acclaim after scoring his first goal for Real Madrid against Alaves

Madrid followed up the thrashing of Alaves two days later by rescuing a 1-1 draw away to Betis, in a game that had been abandoned early in the season after a 43rd-minute floodlight failure. Madrid had restarted – that being the custom in Spain – at 1-0 down. Ronaldo missed his one clear chance of the game but Raul converted a Roberto Carlos cross for the equaliser.

That left Madrid level third on points with Malaga, two points adrift of leaders Celta Vigo and Real Sociedad. Tucked in behind them were Valencia, Deportivo La Coruna, Betis themselves and Barcelona.

Madrid continue to have a Jekyll and Hyde look about them, however. At home they are wonderful entertainers, but on the road the defence continues to resemble a sieve – particularly when Fernando Hierro, now picking his games Tony Adams-style, takes a break. It is almost as if Del Bosque is sorry for opponents and feels he has to give them a chance – or even give his own superstar forwards a handicap to keep them on their toes.

That approach nearly cost Madrid dear away to AEK Athens in the Champions League. They were 3-2 down at half-time after more horrible defending and had to fight back for a 3-3 draw in what was the club's 250th match in the most prestigious European tournament, a record.

At least Madrid, along with Valencia (after their 6-2 thrashing of Basle) and Barcelona (after their first European win in Moscow, by 3-1 against Lokomotiv) appear well set to reach the second group phase. Deportivo may have their work cut out, however. They won away impressively to Bayern Munich and at home to Lens but crashed 4-0 to Milan in front of their own fans in the Riazor.

Spanish hopes burn brightly in the UEFA Cup as well, with Alaves, Malaga, Betis and Celta all through to the second round. Only Celta were seriously tested along the way,

We're doing just fine...Celta's Jesuli

hat-trick. He struck in the 58th and 65th minutes, Barcelona pulled back courtesy of a penalty converted by Juan Roman Riquelme after a foul on Fabio Rochemback after 68 minutes. However, 10 minutes later Madrigal broke away to shoot past Barça's German reserve keeper, Robert Enke. Barcelona brought on Gaizka Mendieta and Javier Saviola in an attempt to prevent a repeat of last season's upset against Figueres, but in vain.

At least Barcelona were not alone in their misery since neighbours Espanyol, Rayo Vallecano, Racing Santander and Villarreal also fell to Third Division giantkillers. Villarreal reacted within hours of their elimination by Hercules of Alicante by dismissing coach Victor Munoz.

The reviving Seville clubs, Sevilla and Betis, both cruised through easily, winning 3-0 away to Jaen and Perez Caballeros respectively. It was just a pity rival supporters could not maintain the same peaceful demeanour off the pitch: Betis Ultras attacked Sevilla fans queueing for tickets for their League derby a couple of weeks later.

> 'Del Bosque was in a no-lose situation. It was not his decision to buy Ronaldo and he would not have been to blame had the Brazilian's debut gone wrong'

winning 2-0 at home to OB Odense but then losing 1-0 in Denmark. Coach Miguel Angel Lotina may have been guilty of a little complacency in the second leg since he rested half the team who had been held 2-2 by Malaga the previous Sunday.

The first round proper of the Spanish Cup threw up various surprises and controversies. The Spanish federation, responding to complaints from clubs about too many matches, has dropped the traditional two-leg format in favour of a single-match knockout, with the lower division team playing host (as in Germany, for example).

Barcelona hate it. For the past two seasons they have been knocked out at the first hurdle by Third Division opposition. This time Louis Van Gaal's superstars were humiliated 3-2 by little Novelda in Alicante despite having grabbed an early lead through Brazilian forward Geovanni. The local hero was centre-forward Antonio Jesus Madrigal, who hit a

Madrid's reserves – with McManaman captain for the night – thumped eight goals past Sanse, and Celta maintained their happy progress on all fronts by winning 1-0 in Burgos with a 26th-minute goal from Edu.

Celta's success cut little ice, however, with Inaki Saez when he named his squad for the European Championship qualifier against Northern Ireland and subsequent friendly against Paraguay. Not one Celta player made the 22-man list.

By contrast, Real Madrid supplied no fewer than seven players: Casillas, Michel Salgado, reserve left-back Raul Bravo, Ivan Helguera, Guti, Raul and Fernando Morientes. That was the highest complement of *Madridistas* in a Spanish squad since 1988. Again, try as one might, there is no way of keeping Madrid out of the news.

Pro-file Augusto Cesar Lendoiro

Big-spending businessman behind Deportivo's success

JUST over a decade ago the remote Galician city of La Coruna was an unheralded footballing backwater, more famed for its fishing port than for its prowess on the football pitch. By the late 1980s, and after 17 seasons out of the top flight, the local Deportivo club were even on the verge of extinction.

But 1988 proved to be a turning point. A last-gasp injury-time goal against Racing Santander saved Depor from relegation to the oblivion of the Spanish Third Division and, more importantly, local businessman Augusto Cesar Lendoiro was elected president of the club.

Given such grandiose forenames it is not surprising Lendoiro came to power with big ambitions. A modest footballer and sports fanatic, he made his name in the unlikely sport of roller-hockey, founding a local club who miraculously went on to become Spanish, European and world champions. His brilliant record and well-developed network of contacts with local businessmen and politicians provided him with the necessary credentials to save the debt-ridden club.

Under the slogan "It's make or break time", Lendoiro balanced the books, secured financial backing from local businesses, boosted season-ticket sales five-fold and persuaded over 20,000 local citizens – nearly 10 per cent of the city's population – to invest in the club.

Lendoiro, an astute financial operator, did some very shrewd business in the transfer market. Depor made huge profits from the sales of Rivaldo and fellow Brazilian midfielder Flavio Conceicao, to Barcelona and Real Madrid respectively, and at the same time Lendoiro recruited a string of quality players.

Slick manoeuvring has been accompanied by success on the pitch. In the 11 seasons since their promotion, Depor have finished in the top three no fewer than seven times, winning their first League title in 2000. Big spending in recent years has left them with significant debts, but Lendoiro, the only full-time professional president in the Spanish game, insists a football club cannot be run like an ordinary business. "The real risk is for those clubs who don't invest in players, because that means they have no future," he says.

Lendoiro has a heart, too. He renewed Mauro Silva's contract when the midfielder was seriously injured after Brazil's 1994 World Cup triumph and similarly treated 39-year-old defender Donato last season. This helps explain why so few players desert the club.

Together with Valencia, Deportivo have successfully challenged the Real-Barça duopoly. Largely thanks to Lendoiro, the Galician port is no longer a footballing backwater. "We are making history," he says. "La Coruna is now on the map because of Deportivo."

Simon Baskett

Milan surprise the sceptics

Paddy Agnew sees a bright start by Ancelotti's star-studded squad

JUST when we were getting ready to add the final lines to our 'In Memoriam Italia' obituary, *'il bel paese'* suddenly and surprisingly found its footballing voice.

From the Atlantic port of La Coruna to the Olympic stadium in Munich, passing via the San Siro and the Stadio Delle Alpi, Italian football made an unexpectedly bright start in the Champions League.

These are, of course, early days. Yet Milan's away wins against Deportivo La Coruna and Bayern Munich, plus Juventus' 5-0 demolition job on Kyiv Dynamo suggest that, for the first time in three seasons, the Italian challenge will at least make it to the quarter-finals.

Perhaps the biggest surprise so far have been Milan. Clearly, there is no shortage of world-class talent in a squad that contains such as Brazilian Rivaldo, Portugal's Rui Costa, Dutchman Clarence Seedorf, Ukraine bullet Andrii Shevchenko, Dane Jon Dahl Tomasson, as well as Paolo Maldini, Alessandro Nesta, Filippo Inzaghi and Andrea Pirlo.

The individual parts look mighty impressive, but could we be certain that coach Carlo Ancelotti could immediately come up with a winning blend? Even more crucial, could we trust Ancelotti to pick all the best parts and play them?

In the past (at Juventus and even more so at Parma), Ancelotti has shown a particular devotion for a 4-4-2 line-up in which hard work, hard running and tough ball-winning counted for more than fancy footwork or creative football.

Yet, a month into the season, Milan had completely cast off last season's dull industrial grey with a series of sparkling performances that included a 4-0 win in La Coruna, a 2-1 win in Munich and a 6-0 Serie A home thrashing of hapless Torino. So then, had Ancelotti been hit with the blinding, revelatory light of 'attack, attack, attack' somewhere on the road to the Milanello training ground?

The answer is probably in the negative. Some rather more prosaic considerations explain the splendid Milan seasonal start. Firstly, a Milan side with Nesta and Maldini at the centre of defence is probably even more solid than the good old days when the young Alessandro Costacurta played alongside Franco Baresi.

Such a solid defence allows Ancelotti the freedom to build. Above all, it has allowed him to risk playing one-time playmaker Pirlo as a central filter in front of the defence. Picking Pirlo in this position has left room for the simultaneous use of Rui Costa, Rivaldo and Seedorf in more forward midfield roles. Put simply, he has found a way of getting as many as possible of his best players into the starting line-up.

Add to that, the thrusting work of Georgian Kakha Kaladze down the left flank (in Maldini's old role), the born-again form of Rui Costa and Seedorf in midfield, plus the rich goal vein struck by Inzaghi (see Pro-file, opposite) and you have a new, goals-a-plenty Milan, who can afford the luxury of waiting for arguably their two biggest stars of all, namely Shevchenko and Rivaldo.

The former is injured and the latter has yet to find his bearings with his new club. Will Milan be even better when these two finally begin to tick over at full revs?

If Milan's bright start was difficult to confidently predict, the same could hardly be said of reigning champions Juventus, especially in the Champions League. As we suggested last month, this Juventus side is strong on motivation regarding Europe's premier club competition.

What was difficult to predict about the 'Old Lady', however, was the brilliant seasonal start by Alessandro Del Piero, scorer of eight goals in Juve's opening eight Champions League, Italian Supercup and Serie A matches. Del Piero looks faster, hungrier and more dangerous than at any time since a November 1998 knee injury brought his career to an abrupt and painful halt.

Alongside Del Piero, new purchase Marco Di Vaio has also been looking good. Until he was injured in an accidental clash of heads early in Juve's 2-0 Champions League home win against Newcastle, Di Vaio had proved himself a more than adequate replacement for injured Frenchman David Trezeguet.

With Edgar Davids beginning to once more live up to his nickname ('The Pitbull'), with Czech star Pavel Nedved buzzing, new signings Mauro Camoranesi and Davide Baiocco looking the genuine article, and Gigi Buffon finally showing why he is the world's most expensive goalkeeper, Juventus are currently looking just fine.

Lest the two biggest names in Italian soccer got carried away with themselves, they were brought firmly down to earth on the third day of the season, when the first 'head-to-heads' saw Juventus at home to Parma and Milan away to Lazio.

When the tapes went up on the new season, most of us would have rated both Parma and Lazio as candidates for a UEFA Cup zone, above-middle-of-table finish. That was based on the fact that Parma had almost completely disbanded, while Lazio had sold off their two best players, namely Nesta and Argentinian striker Hernan Crespo.

That analysis, however, did not allow for the talent of two emerging young coaches, Roberto Mancini of Lazio and Cesare Prandelli of Parma, who are likely to prove to be among the best in the trade. In the end, both Milan and Juventus were lucky to draw, 1-1 at the Stadio Olimpico and 2-2 at the Stadio Delle Alpi.

Both performances signalled loud and clear that all championship contenders will have to pass via both Lazio and Parma before wrapping up

Bedding in...Rivaldo played in Milan's Champions League win over Bayern Munich but he is taking time to settle at the club

their title. Brazilian striker Adriano, Romanian striker Adrian Mutu, Japanese schemer Hidetoshi Nakata, Brazilian left-back Junior and French midfielder Sabri Lamouchi are the new focal points of a Parma side already looking light years ahead of the one that struggled against relegation for much of last season.

As for Lazio, Mancini has worked a minor miracle, revamping players who had long since seemed well launched on the downhill slide to obscurity. Yugoslavs Sinisa Mihajlovic and Dejan Stankovic, Brazilian Cesar, Dutchman Jaap Stam and Argentinian Diego Simeone are all suddenly playing at their very best. Not for nothing did England manager

Buzzing...Juve's Pavel Nedved

and former Lazio coach Sven Goran Eriksson recently suggest that he would be back in Italy next May to watch them play for the title.

As for the other two members of the 'club of six', Roma and Inter, they too have given off positive signals. Inter led Serie A after four matches, even if only because they had yet to meet another member of the 'six'.

Roma were humiliated in a 3-0 Champions League drubbing by Real Madrid and lost their first two Serie A games, to Bologna and Modena, the latter at home.

In the end, Captain Courageous in the shape of Francesco Totti came to the rescue, scoring six goals in three Serie A games, which included badly needed wins against Brescia (3-2) and Udinese (4-1). Those, plus a draw with AEK in Athens and an away win over Belgians Genk in the Champions League, partially remedied Roma's poor start.

For Roma, the first real tests will come late this month when they face Lazio in the Rome derby at the very time they are trying to secure runners-up spot behind Madrid in their Champions League group.

Pro-file Filippo Inzaghi

Record-breaking run for Milan's goalpoacher extraordinaire

JUST at the moment, there may be some egg on a number of English footballing faces. The man who put it there is Milan and Italy striker Filippo Inzaghi, the scorer of 15 goals in his first nine Serie A and Champions League games of the season.

Over the years, 29-year-old Inzaghi has been a source of wry amusement. On those infrequent international occasions (World Cups, European Championships, Champions League nights) when I met up with England-based colleagues, Inzaghi was always subject matter for some heated debate.

Put it simply, the English football world has never really 'fancied' him. This has always been slightly puzzling, given his skyscraper reputation in Italy, not to mention his remarkable goalscoring record at just about every level of the Italian game.

Inzaghi, after all, has not only scored 15 goals in 42 matches for Italy but has also registered a seasonal tally of 13 for Leffe in the Third Division, 15 for Piacenza in the Second Division and 24 for Atalanta in Serie A. No one ever accused Leffe, Piacenza or Atalanta of being 'world class' sides to whom goals came easy.

Nevertheless, English colleagues often suggested 'SuperPippo' was nothing more than a 'poacher' and a 'six-yard-line merchant', with a penchant for taking a dive to boot. That view was officially sanctioned when Holland and former Manchester United defender Jaap Stam (ironically, now with Lazio) wrote his infamous book over a year ago, pointing an accusatory finger at Inzaghi.

What would Inzaghi's English critics make of his sensational seasonal start? Were they watching the Champions League action when he scored a hat-trick in a 4-0 win over Deportivo in La Coruna, as well as both Milan goals in a 2-1 away win against Bayern Munich a week later? Were they watching when he followed up with another hat-trick against Torino?

It is undeniable that Inzaghi is one of those opportunist strikers who lurk in and around the six-yard box, while he regularly gets caught out by moving consistently on the edge of offside. It is true as well that, at this early stage, Milan look exceptionally strong and a team in which a player of his talents can be expected to score by the hatful.

It could, however, be that Italy's all-time leading goalscorer in European club competition (42 so far) is simply a superb striker, gifted with a predator's

instinct, not to mention pace and the ability to use both feet as well as his head.

Critics, usually English again, suggest he is greedy and does not really play for the team. There was, of course, that famous occasion a couple of seasons back when, while playing for Juventus against Venezia in a game already well won, he failed to deliver an obvious pass to a then goal-starved Alessandro Del Piero, opting instead to go for yet another personal hat-trick (duly realised). Yet, did not Jimmy Greaves himself once say that a great striker has to be greedy?

Since his days with Leffe 10 years ago, Inzaghi has long since moved into the highest echelons, playing for Juventus for four seasons before moving to Milan 15 months ago for £25 million.

He says: "Without doubt this is the best period in my career, and for that I am grateful to Milan. I'd say I've arrived at the right club at the right moment. After four excellent years at Juventus, I realised my career was at a turning point when Milan came looking for me. I was sure they would give me what I was looking for, namely success."

Inzaghi makes no secret of his delight at Milan's splendid start to the season. He also points to performances by Juventus and Inter in the Champions League as a sign that Italian football may finally be about to reclaim its place among the European elite. "We've sent out a signal loud and clear to the rest of Europe," he says.

Now if a Milan side with Inzaghi up front just happened to make it all the way to the Champions League Final at Old Trafford next May, what would those English critics say then?

Paddy Agnew

Fact file

Club Milan
Country Italy
Born August 9, 1973, in Piacenza
Previous clubs Piacenza, Leffe, Verona, Parma, Atalanta, Juventus
International debut June 1997, v Brazil
International caps 42 (15 goals)
Honours Italian League 1998; Italian Supercup 1997 (both Juventus)

Brdaric feels the wrath of Kahn

The Bayern keeper's raw edge reflects the Bavarians' lack of confidence, writes Nick Bidwell

You're going nowhere...Kahn gets a firm grip on the cowering Brdaric

IT DID not take long for normal service to be resumed as far as Bayern Munich and Germany keeper Oliver Kahn were concerned.

Often thought of as arrogant by non-Bayern fans, Kahn's excellent work at last summer's World Cup finals resulted in an image makeover. Indeed, 'Super Oli' was glorified to such an extent that his birthday could have become a national holiday. However, an assault on Leverkusen's Thomas Brdaric during Bayern's recent 2-1 away defeat was enough to pull the pedestal from under him.

The incident that sparked Kahn's wrath seemed innocuous. After being flagged for offside, Brdaric carried on to shoot wide of Kahn's goal, but rather than quickly restart the game, the keeper advanced menacingly towards the Leverkusener and grabbed him violently by the neck. The yellow card Kahn received from referee Hellmut Krug was the least he could have expected, while Brdaric was booked too.

Brdaric, later sent off for a second caution, claimed melodramatically that citizen Kahn's 'arrest' had him fearing for his life. But despite his victim's obvious attempts to exaggerate, Kahn was by no means off the hook. Instead of writing about the negligible contribution to the Bayern cause that day of Leverkusen old boys Michael Ballack and Ze Roberto, the media had the Kahn scoop in which to sink their teeth.

The attacks on Kahn were two-pronged. Critics who believed he should have been sent off used the incident as an example of the lenient way big stars are treated, others simply saw it as a case of Kahn the recidivist, repeating his previous misdemeanours, particularly his part in a heated clash with Borussia Dortmund three years ago. That was the day Kahn nearly decapitated Stephane Chapuisat with a flying two-footed lunge, grabbed the ear of Andy Moller and appeared to bite Heiko Herrlich's neck during a stand-off. And all without a yellow card thrust in his direction.

True to type, Kahn was in no mood to repent. "We are not part of a comedy event. Football is a man's game," he said. "These moralists must be glad they have me. It doesn't interest them that Brdaric dived in late on Jeremies or that Schalke's keeper Rost shoved one of his team-mates a few weeks ago. The name Oliver Kahn sells."

When asked whether he should be more of a role model as skipper of the national team, Kahn replied that he might consider giving up the role, but it is unlikely to come to that. Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld has backed him, and Germany boss Rudi Voller also played down the incident.

Kahn's raw nerves reflect a Bayern side in the grip of a crisis of confidence. Yes, their loss at Leverkusen was only their first in the Bundesliga this season. But their problem is, of course, the Champions League. After losing at home to Deportivo La Coruna and Milan and drawing in Lens, they face first-round elimination, and though Hitzfeld insists he has not given up hope, talk in the camp of making do with the UEFA Cup speaks volumes.

What has gone wrong for Bayern in Europe? Vice-president Karl-Heinz Rummenigge says too many players are performing below their potential, Hitzfeld has described his back line as being "rather nervous", while general manager Uli Hoeness opted to shoot the messenger, blaming the press.

"When we won six consecutive games at the start of the season and were playing spectacular football, someone in the media had the bright idea of calling us 'The White Ballet' – and it stuck," said Hoeness. "Since then, our players have done nothing except attempt the artistic stuff. This idea of pretty football has been taken on subconsciously by the players, but it will not produce results.

"Once again we've seen it's fatal to sit back and relax in this business. The team have to be reminded what the game is all about. They must run, run and run some more."

Meanwhile, everyone at Bayer Leverkusen was blowing a sigh of relief in the wake of the victory over Bayern. Last season's Champions League runners-up began the new campaign in desperate fashion, winning only one of their first six Bundesliga matches – 3-1 at Hansa Rostock – slumping to embarrassing home losses to top-flight new boys Bochum (4-2) and Hannover (3-1), and being thrashed 6-2 by Olympiakos in the Champions League.

It mattered little to the Leverkusener that the Bayern game was a poor advertisement for German football, littered with fouls and bad feeling. A head-to-head with the title favourites was the perfect chance for the Rhinelanders to stop the rot, and this they achieved thanks to a free-kick from Brazilian Lucio and a Daniel Bierofka header. Hasan Salihamidzic's goal for the visitors came too late to make a difference.

"I asked the boys to fight tooth and nail for the three points, and that's what they did," declared Leverkusen coach Klaus Toppmoller, who for the first time since arriving at Bayer 15 months ago has come under fire for his choice of men and tactics. "We may have turned the corner. Despite losing at home to Manchester United in the Champions League [2-1], there were lots of positives in our display, and we improved still further against Bayern."

Just as pleased as Toppmoller was Leverkusen keeper Hans-Jorg Butt. The German national team back-up was recently dropped because of a series of erratic performances, but recalled for the Bayern game when his replacement, Australian Frank Juric, was injured. Butt played a pivotal part, pulling off fine stops to deny Ballack and Giovane Elber.

"It was not a straightforward game for me," said Butt. "It's not simple to jump straight back in and play with a high level of concentration. Fortunately, I felt sure of myself from the beginning."

Auxerre look lively

AUXERRE may have had their European ups and downs this season, but as they showed in their crushing 4-1 win at Nantes there is plenty of life yet in both them and their ageless coach Guy Roux.

The attack has been notably reinforced by the arrival of 24-year-old Zimbabwean Benjamin Mwaruwari, who scored Auxerre's consolation goal in Dortmund in the Champions League. Already

Attacking force...Mwaruwari

vigorously in place was 21-year-old Djibril Cisse, now a fully fledged French international, who was joint League top scorer last season

In central defence is the modest, promising Philippe Mexes, who has caught the eye of Manchester United. Mexes, 20, was given the August Fair Play award for his chivalry against Troyes. Though play was continuing, Mexes stopped to lend a hand to Troyes' Mehdi Leroy, knocked breathless in a violent collision.

Mexes has always been fascinated by the Champions League. "It is very different from other encounters," he says. "It is really the summit. You can't afford to make a mistake."

Lyon have been an unpredictable bunch, in and out of Europe. Yet when they thrashed Rosenborg 5-0 in the Champions League you got a true idea of their attacking potential. It was a particularly pleasing evening for two-goal former Lens forward Tony Vairelles, who was unsure at the start of the season whether the club would even want to keep him.

With the subtle Eric Carriere making the bullets to be fired by such as Vairelles, Sonny Anderson, Pegguy Luyindula and the dynamic Sidney Govou, Lyon should really be flourishing. But they are displaying a strange inconsistency, typified by their 3-1 home defeat by Monaco shortly before the Rosenborg success.

Newly promoted Nice have surpassed themselves, even if they recently went down for the second time in the League this season, 1-0 at Sochaux. Coach Gernot Rohr, who wasn't expecting much more than survival at the start of the season, has been predictably pleased. Even before the defeat at Sochaux he announced he knew Nice would have to come to earth sooner or later.

"At the moment," he said, "everyone, the players and the coaches, is going ahead at 120 per cent." Going top so soon was, he added, an inspiration that didn't blind the club to the fact that the priority was staying safe.

What with Strasbourg beaten 4-0, Lille 3-0 and Marseille 2-0, perhaps Rohr was being over-modest, for he has fashioned a team that can compete with our best. "Certainly we are not playing badly," he conceded. "We have worked hard, the players have stuck to the system. Perhaps we have put in more training sessions than the others to make up for the time lost during the summer [when Nice didn't know whether or not they would be allowed to play in Division One at all]."

Rohr reckons that the coaching of Enrico Pionetti has enabled Nice's first-choice keeper, Damien Gregorini, to improve by 80 per cent. That's progress for you.

Andre Duclos

Pro-file Thomas Christiansen

Nomadic Spaniard-Dane banging them in for Bochum

WITH the exception of the outstanding Michael Ballack, no player has made more of an impact in the Bundesliga this season than irrepressible Bochum striker Thomas Christiansen.

The 29-year-old, born in Copenhagen to a Danish father and Spanish mother, was very much the leader of the band, scoring six goals in the first three games as newly promoted Bochum opened the campaign with all guns blazing.

Nor is Christiansen just a penalty-box poacher. He is mobile, industrious and creative, too, while a large percentage of his goals this term have been of the memorable variety – direct free-kicks, marvellous solo efforts, brilliant turns and shots – and all from his excellent left foot.

"It's great Bochum and I are in the spotlight," he says. "I'm comfortable in the Bundesliga, where there is more zonal marking. In the Second Division, there was always someone breathing down your neck. But despite our great start to the season, our goal is still survival. There will be more difficult times ahead. No one knows that better than me."

That's certainly true. Christiansen has experienced far more slump than boom during his career. At 18, he looked to have the world at his feet when Barcelona signed him from B93 Copenhagen. Then while playing for the Catalan club's B team, he even managed to break into the full Spanish national side, impressing on his debut against Mexico.

However, the all-star Barça front line of Hristo Stoichkov and Michael Laudrup meant a move on loan to Sporting Gijon for first-team football, his international opportunities dried up and a sudden loss of confidence resulted in further stints with Osasuna and Santander.

Barça sold him to Oviedo in 1995, but both there and at next stop Villarreal a string of injuries held him back. Spells at Third Division side Terrassa, Panionios in Greece and Denmark's Herfolge followed, and it was only when Bochum signed him in January 2001 that his stock began to rise once more.

Full marks to Bochum boss Peter Neururer for switching Christiansen from his usual left-wing position to a central striking role. The Spaniard-Dane duly notched 17 goals to help the Ruhr club win promotion. "I have much to thank Peter Neururer for," says Christiansen. "His system suits me. I am the lone striker but I'm supported really well by three attacking midfielders."

At the 14th club of his career, Christiansen is finally at home.

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Bochum (Ger)
Country Spain
Born March 11, 1973, in Copenhagen
Previous clubs Avedore (Den), Brondby (Den), Hvidovre (Den), B93 Copenhagen (Den), Barcelona, Sporting Gijon, Osasuna, Racing Santander, Oviedo, Villarreal, Terrassa, Panionios (Gre), Herfolge (Den)
International debut January 1993, v Mexico
International caps 2 (1 goal)

All together now...Arsenal celebrate their *tour de force* at Elland Road, while Leeds' Lee Bowyer is just plain bemused

Awesome Arsenal

Records tumble as the champions start the season in imperious style. Gavin Hamilton reports

RARELY have a team begun the season in such all-conquering manner as the Arsenal vintage of 2002-03. Arsene Wenger's side picked up where they left off last season, extending their unbeaten run in the League to 30, a Premiership record.

Their 4-1 victory at Leeds was the 47th consecutive League match in which Arsenal had scored, breaking Chesterfield's record dating back to the 1929-30 season.

The win at Elland Road was hailed by Wenger as one of the finest performances during his time in charge at Highbury. "In the first 30 minutes we were absolutely outstanding," he said. "This was one of the top, top, top performances. The team is looking better and better, and the players are full of confidence."

Wenger has again proved his worth in the transfer market, with his latest signing, Brazilian Gilberto Silva, proving a highly effective midfield partner for captain Patrick Vieira. The Vieira-Silva axis has enabled Wenger to field what is effectively a 4-2-4 formation, with Thierry Henry and Dennis Bergkamp flanked by Freddie Ljungberg and the outstanding Sylvain Wiltord.

With Kanu, an able deputy for Bergkamp, Kolo Toure, a bright new addition, and Robert Pires, due to return from serious injury, Arsenal have quality and strength in depth. Even their discipline has improved.

An additional factor in the rush to praise Arsenal has been their form in the Champions League, with three wins from their opening three games. Crucially, Wenger's men have found their form away from home, helped in no small measure by the decision of Bergkamp to travel overseas.

With so much praise being heaped upon their shoulders at such an early stage of the season, the prediction that Arsenal's season will end with the Champions League Final at Old Trafford does not seem so wild.

But let's not get too carried away. Arsenal have yet to meet a team in the Champions League that attacks them in the same way they have terrorised defences. The real test will be whether they can raise their game in the knockout stages.

The next record Arsenal have in their sights is Nottingham Forest's 42-League game unbeaten run. On current form, this Arsenal side are more than capable of breaking it.

Arsenal continued their run with a 3-1 home win over Sunderland, whose manager, Peter Reid, complained that he could have been talking Swahili to his players, for all the notice they had taken of his instructions. It proved to be the final straw for Reid. The following day he was sacked.

Reid had been at the helm since March 1995, overseeing two promotions, but his departure was not entirely unexpected. Defeats by Fulham and local rivals Newcastle and Middlesbrough had already placed him in a precarious position. Without the injured Kevin Phillips, Europe's top scorer when Sunderland finished seventh in 2001, Reid's team struggled for goals.

Just up the road, Middlesbrough have been the surprise early performers. Apart from Juninho, injured in pre-season, manager Steve McClaren's summer signings have proved their worth, particularly Italian striker Massimo Maccarone, while Joseph-Desire Job seems far happier following the arrival of Cameroon team-mate Geremi.

Defensive meanness, courtesy of Gareth Southgate and Ugo Ehiogu, means Boro are capable of sustaining their challenge for a European place. And the longer they stay in the top six, the more McClaren will be talked about as a potential successor to Sven Goran Eriksson.

Liverpool and Manchester United seem the most likely challengers to Arsenal. Liverpool were still unbeaten after nine games and only two points behind Arsenal. United put their jittery early season form behind them, with Ruud Van Nistelrooy finding the net again.

Challenges from Chelsea and Leeds already seem unlikely. Both seem hamstrung by inconsistency, and their poor financial situations mean they will have to sell players before they can add new blood. Chelsea suffered UEFA Cup misery for the third successive season, going out 5-4 on aggregate to Viking Stavanger of Norway, following equally ignominious exits at the hands of St Gallen and Hapoel Tel Aviv.

Net profit...Ruud Van Nistelrooy gets back on the goal trail at Charlton

SCOTLAND

Weir quits after criticism

DEFENDER David Weir has announced that he will no longer play for Scotland after national coach Berti Vogts publicly criticised him and fellow defender Christian Dailly for their performances during the dismal 2-2 draw in the Faroe Islands in the first Euro 2004 qualifier.

The Everton centre-back, who won 35 caps, thus joins a list that includes Duncan Ferguson, Richard Gough and Gary McAllister who have made similar decisions in recent times.

Forget it, Scotland...David Weir

The non-availability of Weir, among the most experienced players in recent squads, merely exacerbates the already mountainous task facing Vogts as the German tries to restore some pride to the national team.

On the domestic front, the championship has already become the usual two-horse race. Rangers, leaders by a point from Celtic after 10 games, have begun the season promisingly. However, revelations that the club are £52 million in debt suggest that the blank chequebook available to previous managers at Ibrox will not be within reach of current boss Alex McLeish. Rangers' interest in buying long-serving Turkey forward Hakan Sukur from Parma had to be shelved when the player's wage demands became apparent.

Alan Fairley

WALES

Double blow for Barry

CHAMPIONS Barry Town have made an uncharacteristically poor start to the season and were only fourth after eight rounds. They suffered back-to-back 1-0 defeats by Port Talbot Town and Total Network Solutions – the first time they had lost two successive League matches since 1995.

Port Talbot's victory helped them maintain their surprise start – they were third after eight games, behind free-scoring Bangor and TNS.

Nothing is going right for injury-hit Caersws, who are languishing near the bottom and have already lost their grip on the League Cup, going out 2-0 on aggregate to Port Talbot.

Mel Thomas

N IRELAND

Glens lose four wins

GLENTORAN, enjoying one of their best starts to a League campaign with four wins out of four, were rocked back on their heels when they were found guilty of playing an ineligible player and lost all 12 points.

The results of all their victories were changed to 1-0 defeats after the League determined that teenage midfielder Andrew Kilmartin was still on the books of Scottish champions Celtic. Kilmartin, who appeared in all Glens' 'wins', had been signed as an amateur by the club while still technically a Celtic player. He had come on loan to Glentoran last spring and had not returned to Glasgow. However, he was still registered with Celtic, making him ineligible to play for Glens under League rules.

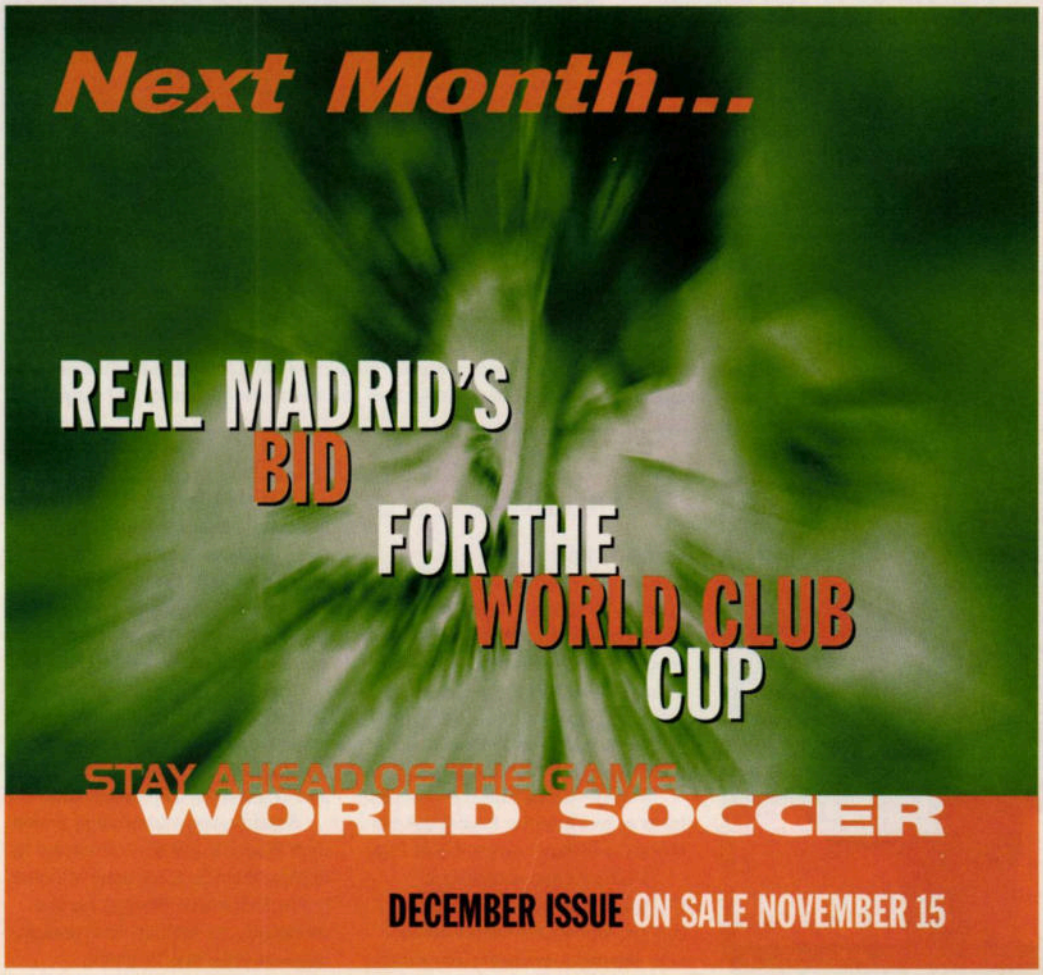
Roy Coyle's side dropped to the bottom of the table as a result, while Omagh Town took over as the surprise early leaders.

Promoted Institute also started well, only for the man behind their success, manager Paul Kee, to quit to become youth development officer at English Third Division side Carlisle United. Kee has been replaced by former Derry City and Coleraine player Paul Hegarty.

Another manager on the move was Paul Kirk of Lisburn Distillery, who like Kee led his club into the top flight last season. He had to reluctantly tender his resignation after being appointed a regional youth development officer by the Irish FA, a post that prevents him from holding a club position.

Newry Town manager Alfie Wylfe resigned after the club's poor start to the season. His replacement is former Carrick Rangers boss Jim O'Rourke.

Roy Kitson



Litmanen lights up Ajax

Klaas-Jan Droppert on the Finn's return to Amsterdam

HOLLAND

AJAX hope to regain something of their golden past now that Jari Litmanen, one of their most successful players of all time, has returned.

The Finn, a key player during the mid-1990s when the club won the Champions League, decided to rejoin them just before the transfer window closed. Although Litmanen has a weak spot for Ajax, his decision came as a surprise. Sidelined at Liverpool, he had wanted to return to Amsterdam this summer but the deal fell through. "Ajax's offer was nearer to that of their best-paid reserve players than that of the best-paid first-teamers," said a disappointed Litmanen.

At the same time, Ajax appeared cool about signing him, director Leo Beenhakker declaring: "Jari's position has been filled by a certain Rafael Van der Vaart, one of Europe's brightest talents."

However, shortly before the transfer market closed, Litmanen signed a deal until the winter break, with an option to stay for another 18-months. Although no salary details were released, it is likely the Finn lowered his sights.

Ajax coach Ronald Koeman believes Litmanen and Van der Vaart can play in the same team. Whether he is right will only be apparent when the latter recovers from a knee injury.

In the League, Ajax and PSV were joint top on 19 points after seven rounds, with Feyenoord third, six points behind. Heerenveen, thought to be the only club capable of challenging the Big Three this season, made a disastrous start and were second bottom after collecting just two points.

At most clubs, that would put the coach under severe pressure – but not in the down-to-earth Frisian town. Foppe de Haan, at the helm for 17 years now, merely said: "We can't get confused about a few defeats. It will all come right eventually."

Things didn't get any better for Heerenveen on the UEFA Cup front with a 3-2 aggregate defeat by National Bucharest. Utrecht did even worse, going down 7-2 to Legia Warsaw and set to be handed a European ban after crowd trouble during the home leg forced the match to be halted for half an hour. Vitesse are the only Dutch survivors after beating Rapid Bucharest 2-1.

In the Champions League Feyenoord and Ajax are still in the race for the second group phase, but PSV look likely to maintain their record of never reaching that stage.

Glad to be back...Litmanen has a soft spot for Ajax

Trond Sollied's men have averaged over two goals a game in the domestic League, but successive goalless draws in the Champions League, against Lokomotiv Moscow and Galatasaray, threatened their chances of qualification for the second phase.

In-form Feyenoord forward Thomas Buffel was included in the Belgium squad for the Euro 2004 qualifiers against Andorra and Estonia. Buffel's good recent club performances have been a boost to Aime Anthuenis, Waseige's successor as national coach, who has been left with sadly depleted attacking options following the international retirement of Marc Wilmots, Johan Walem and Gert Verheyen.

Nicholas Harling

Not up to Standard...Robert Waseige

BELGIUM

Waseige fails club-after-country test

ROBERT WASEIGE became the latest in a long line of former national team coaches to harm his reputation with a club side when he was sacked by Standard Liege with the club bottom of the table after taking just one point from their first five games.

Waseige, 62, had been at Standard for only two months, having been in charge of Belgium at the World Cup.

Assistant coach Dominique D'Onofrio was put in temporary charge. Among the names linked with the post have been Frenchman Philippe Troussier, the former Japan national team boss, and Franco-Bosnian Vahid Halilhodzic (ex-Lille). Rene Vandereycken, enduring a tough time with Twente in Holland, was another supposed candidate, as was Stephane Demol, recently appointed by promoted Mechelen.

The fortunes of once-formidable Standard did not improve drastically under D'Onofrio. After eight games they were still in the relegation zone and in search of their first victory.

Royal Antwerp surprisingly ended Club Brugge's 100 per cent record by holding them to a 2-2 draw at home in late September. Brugge, League runners-up for the past four seasons, had won their first six games.

PORTUGAL

Jardel back in the fold

MARIO JARDEL has rejoined Sporting Lisbon having been suspended by the club in early September after failing to turn up for medical tests.

Last season's League top scorer with 42 goals went back to his native Brazil suffering from depression after the break-up of his marriage and claimed he could no longer play in Portugal because he was not in the right psychological condition.

Jardel's about-turn is a major boost for coach Ladislao Boloni, who believes his side cannot retain the championship without the striker. However, doctors have warned it may be some time before Jardel makes his first appearance. He has not played or even trained for four months, and question marks remain over his mental state.

Last year's Double winners have made a stuttering start this term, winning only two of their first five games, and are six points behind leaders FC Porto. They also failed to reach the Champions League group phase, losing 2-0 on aggregate to Internazionale in the third qualifying round, then exited the UEFA Cup at the hands of Partizan Belgrade.

Alberto da Silva

SWITZERLAND

Rossi in the groove

ARGENTINIAN Hernan Rossi scored in all of Basle's first three Champions

League group games, but his side stumbled badly after an impressive start. Rossi scored the clincher in the opening 2-0 win over Moscow Spartak and the equaliser in the 1-1 draw with Liverpool. However, his goal in Valencia next time out proved a mere consolation as the Swiss champions were thrashed 6-2.

At home, Basle have been eclipsed by Grasshopper, who were a point clear after 15 rounds.

Gerard Castella, who took Servette to the title in 1999, became the second coaching casualty of the season when sacked by St Gallen. The 2000 champions lost six consecutive away matches and took only 13 points from their first 14 games.

Ivar von Rulach

REP OF IRELAND

Funding blow to 2008 co-hosting hopes

THE Football Association of Ireland's plans to co-host the 2008 European Championship finals with Scotland suffered a major setback in September when the Irish

Hitting the target...Hernan Rossi (right)

government said that due to financial cutbacks they were abandoning plans to build a national stadium in Dublin.

The government had promised grant aid to the FAI if they abandoned plans to build their own stadium, Eircom Park. Now the FAI's hopes depend on the Gaelic Athletic Association opening up Croke Park, currently used for gaelic football and hurling, to soccer, and the prospect of Lansdowne Road, owned by the Irish Rugby Union, being modernised by 2008.

Bohemians are now odds-on favourites to win the championship after establishing a 10-point lead over second-placed Shelbourne. But the League leaders' Double hopes were ended when they were knocked out of the Cup in the semi-finals by Shamrock Rovers, who meet Derry City in the Final.

Sean Creedon

AUSTRIA

Daum lands at Austria Wien

AUSTRIAN football is clearly not for coaches seeking job security. After Thijs Libregts (Grazer AK), Ivica Osim (Sturm Graz), Heinz Hochhauser (Karnten) and Rainer Horgl (Bregenz), Austria Wien's Walter Schachner became the fifth boss to be sacked this season when he was surprisingly replaced by high-profile German Christoph Daum.

It is hard to see what more Schachner could have done for Austria since arriving from Karnten in the summer. His side were top of the table after 12 rounds and had reached the second round of the UEFA Cup following a 5-2 aggregate win over Shakhtar Donetsk. But club president Frank Stronach thought differently.

"It's very important we take part in the Champions League, and that will only be possible when we have the best players, financial clout and a most experienced coach," said Stronach. "Christoph Daum is one of the most successful coaches in Europe. I value Walter Schachner. I would have liked him to work alongside Daum, but he didn't agree."

Daum, once in line to take over the German national team but who fell into disgrace following a drugs scandal, was formerly in charge of Koln, Stuttgart, Bayer Leverkusen and Besiktas before being released by the Turkish side at the end of last season.

He is the 18th man to take the Austria Wien helm in the past 12 years. But he was his usual confident self at his inaugural press conference. "The challenge is right for me," declared Daum, who had also been courted by Sturm Graz. "I shall be looking to build something big here. There will be no star system. My philosophy is about flexibility and scoring at least two more goals than the opposition."

Nick Bidwell

Pro-file Alin Stoica

Romanian playmaker fighting to throw off his bad-boy baggage

ROMANIAN midfielder Alin Stoica faces a make-or-break season after controversially leaving Anderlecht on a Bosman free transfer for arch-rivals Club Brugge.

No one would cast doubt on the 22-year-old's exceptional talent as a playmaker, the left-footed technical refinement bringing comparisons with the great Gheorghe Hagi. But the problem with Stoica is the rebellious baggage he is thought to carry with him.

Stoica's reputation has undoubtedly been tarnished by a long-running feud with the Anderlecht management. The club's general manager, Michel Verschueren, hoped to spend the early part of last season negotiating an extension to Stoica's contract, which was due to run out in the summer, only to be frustrated by what he considered the player's excessive wage demands.

Verschueren believed Stoica was simply hoping to see out his time before cutting a lucrative deal as a free agent. But an already acrimonious situation degenerated still further. Stoica limped off during a League match with Lommel last October, only for Anderlecht's doctor to subsequently report he could find nothing wrong. This prompted Verschueren to allege that Stoica was picking and choosing his games. "Such behaviour is unacceptable," the general manager stormed. "His only concern is setting himself up for a big-money transfer. He puts his own interest above the team."

Stoica still vehemently denies the accusation. He claims he was a victim of an Anderlecht black propaganda operation and that the bad press dissuaded many interested clubs, including Perugia, Udinese, Hannover, Marseille, Besiktas and Sunderland, from coming in for him.

"No one can say my heart was not at Anderlecht," says Stoica, the son of former Steaua Bucharest and Romania defender or midfielder Tudorel Stoica. "I went there as a 16-year-old and worked very hard to reach the first team. Then, because they don't want me, they say I feigned injury and did not want to play. These are lies."

All the same, mud sticks, and there are many in Belgium who think Club Brugge have taken an unnecessary risk. However, they insist they have done good business. Coach Trond Sollied is delighted to have Stoica on board, while general manager Antoine Vanhove is similarly optimistic, saying: "Stoica is not as difficult to handle as some claim. He's a fine young player and should make us stronger."

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Club Brugge (Blg)
Country Romania
Born December 10, 1979, in Bucharest
Previous clubs Steaua Bucharest, Anderlecht (Blg)
International debut March 1998, v Israel
International caps 7 (0 goals)
Honours Belgian League 2000, 2001 (Anderlecht)

Hyypia refutes rebellion rumours

The international defender stands by coach Muurinen, writes Pentti Hietanen

FINLAND

RECENT rumours of a player rebellion against national coach Antti Muurinen have sparked an angry rebuttal from defender Sami Hyypia, one of the alleged ringleaders.

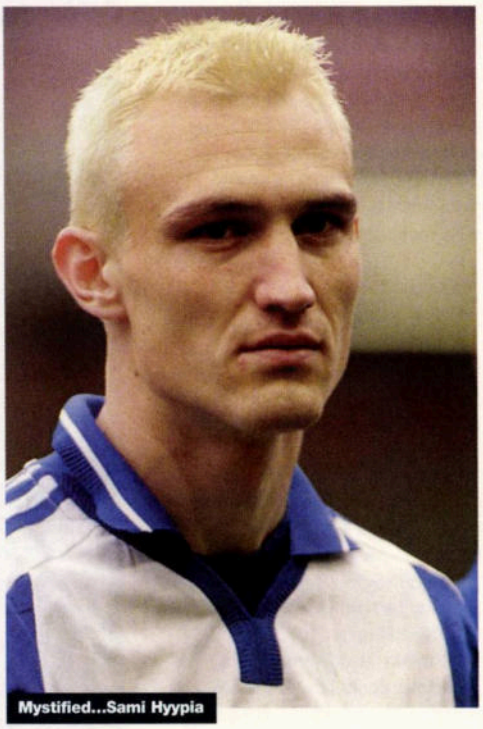
"These stories are utter rubbish," claimed the Liverpool centre-back, who had been implicated in the rebellion along with fellow star Jari Litmanen, now back at Ajax. "I know nothing of any movement against Muurinen and I cannot understand where these rumours come from."

Muurinen has come under heavy fire after Finland's poor showing in the 2-0 Euro 2004 qualifying defeat by Wales in Helsinki. A recent article in a Finnish sports weekly suggested that the coach lacks the respect of the national side's overseas-based players. The rebels, it was reported, wanted to bring in Harri Kampman, currently the coach of FC Lahti, a close friend of Litmanen as well as the former coach of Hyypia.

"I have not been in any contact with Kampman lately," said Hyypia. "Besides, I don't have any obligations to help him to become the national coach."

Muurinen's ambitious 4-3-3 tactics, using two wingers and just one pure central forward, have not worked, mainly due to the inability of Charlton's Jonatan Johansson and Sheffield Wednesday's Shefki Kuqi to replace the injured Mikael Forssell.

In the League, HJK Helsinki look to be running away with the title after recording 11 consecutive victories.



Mystified...Sami Hyypia

SWEDEN

Zlatan still divides opinion

ZLATAN IBRAHIMOVIC has continued to cause controversy in Sweden. The young Ajax striker is hailed by many as the man to lead Sweden to the Euro 2004 finals in Portugal, but his behaviour, including a recent night-club incident in Stockholm, has raised serious questions about his maturity.

A brilliant two-goal performance for Ajax in the Champions League against Lyon underlined Ibrahimovic's potential to become one of Europe's most exciting forwards.

Maturity questions...Zlatan Ibrahimovic

But the 21-year-old has still not won over Sweden coaches Tommy Soderberg and Lars Lagerback. They have been very cautious in their praise for a player who seems the natural successor to Henrik Larsson, following the Celtic forward's recent international retirement.

"Larsson was not merely a goalscorer for Sweden," Lagerback said recently. "At his best, he was also a leader who could bring other people into the game." Meanwhile, Lagerback is still happy to call Ibrahimovic "an exciting prospect".

The striker's former club, Malmo, were known as the sick man of Swedish football a few years ago. Now they are financially buoyant and fighting for the League championship with Djurgardens. However, they lost 4-0 to Djurgardens in the Cup semi-finals. The Stockholm club will meet city rivals AIK in the Final.

Pentti Hietanen

DENMARK

Olsen falls out with the neighbours

NATIONAL team coach Morten Olsen was involved in a slanging match with his neighbours after Denmark drew 2-2 in Norway in their opening Euro 2004 qualifier. Olsen lambasted the Norwegians for their "primitive football", a charge long levelled by others in the international game. Nils Johan Semb, Norway's coach, took umbrage, claiming Olsen's comments were just sour grapes because his side had scored an injury-time equaliser to steal the draw.

While the domestic game has been boosted by a massive 35 per cent rise in attendances on the previous season, the continuing mixed fortunes of Brondby under Michael Laudrup have remained the biggest talking point.

Brondby's 5-2 aggregate elimination from the UEFA Cup by Levski Sofia was a major blow, but they managed to win three successive Superliga games. Then came an awful setback in the 11th round, with a wholly unexpected 2-1 defeat at home to lowly Koge.

This left Brondby fourth in the table, six points behind leaders FC Copenhagen. The latter also made an early exit from the UEFA Cup, losing 3-1 to Djurgardens of Sweden, but Midtjylland went through 2-1 against Varteks of Croatia.

Jim Holden

NORWAY

Rosenborg suffer turbulence

ROSENBORG showed extremes of form in their opening two Champions League encounters, producing one of their best European performances in the 2-2 home draw against Internazionale, then crashing 5-0 in Lyon.

In the first game, the Norwegian champions outplayed Inter for most of the match, though they failed to capitalise, and Hernan Crespo snatched a late equaliser.

The humbling by Lyon offered more ammunition to coach Nils Arne Eggen's critics, who say he is incapable of inspiring the team on their travels from Trondheim.

In the third game, Rosenborg drew 0-0 at home to Ajax.

In the domestic League, at least, the champions have continued to lead the way, and were three points clear of Molde with two games to play.

Valerenga beat promotion candidates Aalesund 2-0 to reach the Cup Final. They will meet Odd Grenland, who overcame Stabaek by the same score.

Sigurd Odegaard

ICELAND

KR crowned after Fylkir fumble

LONG-TIME leaders Fylkir saw the championship snatched from their grasp on the final day of the season after losing 2-0 to outgoing champions IA Akranes.

That let in Reykjavik rivals KR, who thrashed already relegated Thor 5-0 to secure the title for the third time in four years.

A week later, Fylkir put the setback behind them by beating Fram 3-1 to retain the FA Cup.

Fram are the undisputed escapologists of Icelandic football, after staving off relegation on the final day of the season for the fourth year running. They retained their top-flight status with a goal difference one better than Keflavik's.

Runaway First Division champions Valur and capital neighbours Throttur will replace Thor and Keflavik next season.

Rab Christie

Crying game...Australia lose out

Aussies deserve better

FIFA attempts to portray the myth that it works "for the good of the game", acting in the global interest of soccer. Yet it continues to deny the Oceania confederation a direct (or, at least, fair) route to the World Cup.

Australia won all their Oceania qualifiers and then lost one game against Uruguay to deny them a deserved and very beneficial World Cup place. It strikes me as distinctly unfair that Australia, having played six games against mostly cannon-fodder teams, are then required to play the fifth-placed South American team, who are on the back of playing 18 qualifying games against some of the best teams in the world.

The only way Australia (or even New Zealand) are going to develop as a soccer force is if they are playing against more developed nations than tiny South Pacific islands. I have seen at first hand what qualification for the 1982 World Cup did for the popularity of soccer in New Zealand. If FIFA truly cared about developing soccer globally, they would use the World Cup to further develop soccer in Oceania.

Conor Leahy, Carrigaline, Co Cork, Republic of Ireland

Gavin Hamilton replies: Conor, you hit the nail on the head when you spoke about cannon fodder. If Oceania were given an automatic World Cup place, Australia would be virtually guaranteed to fill it every time. Oceania has not been as adept at exerting influence within FIFA as other regions. But I suspect that may be about to change. Its enthusiastic support for Sepp Blatter's presidency has to reap a benefit at some stage.

Celtic bid is best bet

I don't understand how UEFA can still be considering the Euro 2008 bid from Switzerland and Austria. There was crowd trouble in Vienna when Arsenal played a pre-season friendly, then Basle fans rioted when their team were beaten in the League. Does this not concern UEFA? I may be biased but I think the Scottish and Irish bid must be the best bet: two sets of friendly fans, loved wherever they go. Can't they play the hosts for once, instead of being the happy travellers?

Iain Dickie, by e-mail

Gavin Hamilton replies: There are problems with all eight bids. The Celtic one, for example, may be scuppered by concerns over stadium financing. The Austro-Swiss bid has been the front-runner because they have been up and running from day one.

Moratti is mad about the Boy

One has to question the sanity of Inter president Massimo Moratti. No sooner has he claimed Ronaldo left the club for more money than he mentions the Boy Wonder gave up £3million to play at Real Madrid.

Steven Abrahams, by e-mail

Gavin Hamilton replies: Moratti is entitled to feel a little bemused by the affair. Having overseen Ronaldo's rehabilitation from serious injury, Moratti and Inter were treated shambolically by the player and his agents. To make matters worse, Ronaldo has since attempted to rewrite history by criticising Inter coach Hector Cuper. He should know better.

Please mark your correspondence 'Letters page' and send to:
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Fax: +44 (0) 20 7261 7474
E-mail: worldsoccerletters@ipcmedia.com

CROSSWORD mitre

WIN a top-quality Mitre football

Mitre has kindly donated a top-quality football as first prize for this month's crossword. The first correct entry selected at random after November 22 will win the ball. Five runners-up will each win a *World Soccer Yearbook*. SEND YOUR ENTRY TO: NOVEMBER CROSSWORD, *World Soccer*, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS.

ACROSS

2 Juve defender formerly with Bologna (9)
6 Coach who led Dinamo Bucharest's 2001-02 UEFA Cup campaign (5)
7 Veteran former Barça defender of Mallorca and Spain (5)
9 Levski Sofia and Bulgaria forward recently transferred to Rennes (6)
10 Country in which Pirouzi reign as champions (4)
12 Fulham forward recruited this year from Gimnasia Esgrima LP (4)
14 2002 Belgian Cup winners (6)
17 Former Uruguay forward who was in Italy with Sampdoria and Vicenza (5)
18 Only player to have won six European Cup winners medals (5)
19 Costa Rica's 2002 World Cup coach (9)

DOWN

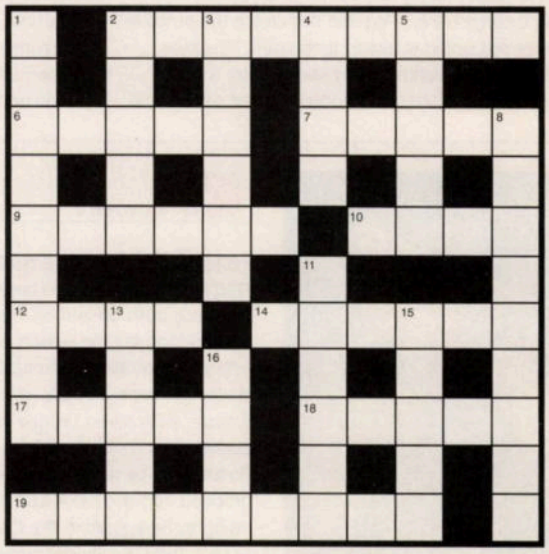
1 Young Argentina midfielder back at Real Madrid after a long-term loan (9)
2 Italian club based at the Ennio Tardini stadium (5)
3 Colombian midfielder whose clubs have included Corinthians and Cruzeiro (6)
4 Club promoted to Belgium's top flight for the first time in 2002 (4)
5 Juventus centre-back voted Croatia's Player of the Year 2001 (5)
8 One-time Stabaek midfielder of Everton and Sweden (9)
11 Forward transferred this year from Le Mans to Guingamp (6)
13 Much-travelled Internazionale and Italy striker (5)
15 Denizli's successor as Turkey's national coach (5)
16 Shimizu S-Pulse's holding midfielder selected for Troussier's World Cup side (4)

SEPTEMBER SOLUTION

ACROSS: 7 Ayala, 8 Toure, 9 Senegal, 10 Noh, 11 Reis, 13 Cruz, 17 Kim, 18 Aguirre, 20 Hjelm, 21 Totti.
DOWN: 1 Gajser, 2 Kahn, 3 Zaugg, 4 Italy, 5 Hubner, 6 Weah, 12 Ismael, 14 Zhenis, 15 Fahmi, 16 Kurtz, 17 Kuhn, 19 Roth.

SEPTEMBER WINNERS

1st prize: Simeon Brewer, Stevenage, Herts.
5 runners-up: David Sauce Martin, Madrid; Tony Plesa, Ontario, Canada; Unisa Jalloh, Varese, Italy; Adrian Ungureanu, Lilburn, USA; Carlos Temprano, Coruna, Spain.



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NOVEMBER (photocopied coupons are acceptable)

Clubs scuppered by TV shutdown

The loss of rights money has plunged the Greek game into crisis, writes Lou Economopoulos

GREECE

GREEK football has been rocked by the announcement that one of the country's two pay-TV stations has gone bankrupt. The station, TV Alpha Digital Synthesis, held exclusive rights to matches for 10 of the 16 First Division clubs, including last season's top two, Olympiakos and AEK Athens.

Many of the clubs made expensive purchases of players during the summer, and were banking on receipt of the TV cash as poor attendances have forced the teams to look for other financial means to survive.

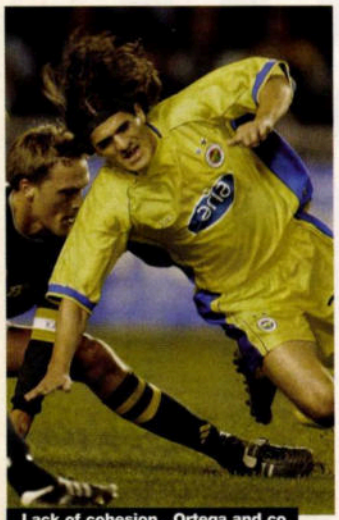
In an effort to hand them a lifeline, the Greek Union of Professional Soccer Clubs (EPAE) has called for domestic teams to be included in the popular state-run soccer pools Pame Stichima, which features only foreign teams at present. EPAE proposes that Greek clubs be given a slice of the income generated by the pools, which is currently earmarked for amateur sports and the staging of the 2004 Olympics.

"Income for professional soccer clubs has reached zero, and our only hope is the Stichima," said EPAE president Thanasis Kanellopoulos.

As the extent of the crisis became apparent, EPAE initiated a one-month suspension of the top three divisions. Meanwhile, the government has said it will not bail out the struggling clubs. "We're not giving one cent," said Sports Under-Secretary George Lianis. "We did not create the problem and we are not going to act as firefighters." Culture Minister Evangelos Venizelos, whose ministry is in charge of sports, rejected the pools proposal saying that "the government was not ready to open a Pandora's Box".

Meanwhile, AEK owner Makis Psomiadis has been jailed for 12 years for publishing a forged bank document during his time as owner of the *To Onoma* newspaper. The bank document, published in 1996, purported to show that a government minister received payment from a consortium bidding for the contract to build the new Athens airport.

Off-air...Olympiakos and AEK are two of the top-flight clubs to suffer


Lack of cohesion...Ortega and co

TURKEY

Fenerbahce face the music

FENERBAHCE have been beset by problems both on and off the field after kicking off the season with high hopes of mounting a strong title challenge and making an impact in Europe. With seven League games played, they trailed leaders Galatasaray by three points and had dropped into the UEFA Cup after losing to Feyenoord in the Champions League third qualifying round.

The Istanbul club went into the season in confident mood having spent big on acquiring the likes of Argentinian international forward Ariel Ortega and Brazilian striker Washington during the summer. However, the new-look side has failed to gel.

Meanwhile, the club are facing a one-match stadium ban after Fener fans threw objects on to the pitch after their team had a penalty claim turned down during a home game against Elazigspor.

Hasan Cemali

YUGOSLAVIA

Red Star youngsters impress

NO fewer than four of the Red Star Belgrade side that travelled to Verona to face Chievo in the UEFA Cup were born in 1984. But despite the team's youth and lack of European experience, they ran out 2-0 winners on the night to go through to the second round following the 0-0 first leg draw in Yugoslavia. The achievement is a testament to the Red Star youth scheme, which generated seven of the winning side.

City rivals Partizan also made it through, beating Sporting Lisbon 6-4 on aggregate. However, the Yugoslav champions squandered a 3-1 advantage from the first game in Portugal and qualified only after scoring twice in extra time in the return. The second leg was played behind closed doors in Belgrade because of crowd trouble during Partizan's Champions League qualifier against Bayern Munich.

Sartid Smederevo had high expectations of reaching the second round after drawing 1-1 away to Ipswich in the first leg. But they lost 1-0 at home in the return.

On the domestic scene, League leaders Partizan suffered their first defeat of the season, losing 2-0 away to surprise side Zeleznik, who moved up to second.

Vladimir Novak

CROATIA

Two banned for corruption

REFEREE Ivan Katusa has been given a life ban and Hrvatski dragovoljac president Stjepan Spajic a two-year suspension after a federation hearing found them guilty of corruption.

The hearing was called after Spajic stated publicly that he had given Katusa £6,500 before a crucial game at the end of last season between relegation-threatened Hrvatski and Slaven Belupo. Spajic claimed he made the payment merely to have the referee officiate fairly rather than to seek advantage since he felt that there was a conspiracy among Croatia's football authorities to see his club not only relegated but go out of business.

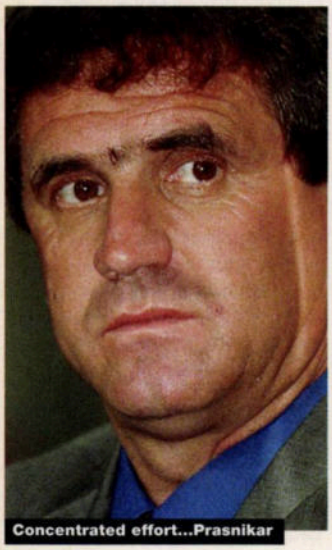
"I gave him money, 20 500 euro notes," said Spajic. "I have witnesses. I did it to ensure honest refereeing in this match. He took the money but his refereeing was unfair and against my club."

Spajic also stated that Katusa handed back the money after the match. Despite these claims, the federation handed down the punishments. Hrvatski lost the game 2-1 and went on to be relegated.

"When I confessed corruption I hoped that the issue would be taken much more seriously," said Spajic. "But it seems that it is in nobody's interest to do so, and that these scandals are about to be hushed up."

Five clubs have already changed coach this season: Nikola Jurcevic came in for Ivan Katalinic at Zagreb, Milan Tomljanovic is the new man in charge of Kamen Ingrad to replace Vjeran Simunic, now at Zadar. Simunic's predecessor at his new club, Stanko Mrsic, has taken the reins at Sibenik in place of Franko Bogdan, and Vlado Bilic replaces Milan Djurcic at Osijek.

Zdravko Reic



Concentrated effort...Prasnikar

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Sliskovic claims coercion

NATIONAL coach Blaz Sliskovic has claimed he is under undue pressure to select certain players because of the vested interests of federation officials. His claims come in the wake of harsh criticism of his coaching ability following recent defeats.

"I am exposed to tremendous stress caused by leading people in the football federation, who constantly direct me about which players to put into the national team," said Sliskovic, who took over in the summer. "This is an issue of private interests of certain clans, who want to ensure the international reputation of certain players so they can sell them for the highest price."

Zdravko Reic

SLOVENIA

Prasnikar goes full-time

BOJAN PRASNIKAR has prematurely quit as coach of champions Maribor after deciding he was unable to fulfil that role as well as his duties as national team coach.

Prasnikar was appointed to lead Slovenia in the summer on the proviso that he continued in charge of Maribor until the winter break, but the coach has chosen to concentrate solely on the national side.

In the League, Koper and Olimpija had established a clear lead after 11 rounds. Olimpija owner Jurij Schollmayer has announced that former Croatia international Davor Suker will join his compatriot Robert Prosinecki at the club during the winter break. However, they will have only a few months together as Prosinecki has announced that he is retiring at the end of the season.

Zdravko Reic

MACEDONIA

Vardar win points but no pay

VARDAR continue to dominate the championship despite the fact that the players have not been paid for months. The Skopje side, champions last season, were four points ahead of second-placed Belasica after nine rounds.

Former national coach Dragan Kanatlarovski, sacked this summer by Belasica, has taken the reins at struggling Kumanovo. Alekso Mackov made way after the side took only four points from the first seven games.

Stefan Toleski, a defender with top division side Napredok, has died after suffering a heart attack during a game. The 23-year-old was a former Under-21 international.

Michel Stojmanovski

MALTA

Sliema take pole position

SLIEMA WANDERERS' title ambitions received a major boost when they beat Valletta 2-0 away to leapfrog their arch-rivals at the top. Skipper Noel Turner (penalty) and forward Danilo Doncic made sure of the three points for the Blues to end Valletta's unbeaten record this term.

Domenico Aquilina

Pro-file Cihan Haspolatli

Versatility is the name of the game for Gala's new recruit

PROMISING young Turkish utility player Cihan Haspolatli had no time to feel sorry for himself after narrowly failing to be included in his country's World Cup squad.

Impressive last season for Kocaelispor and the Under-21s, the uncapped Cihan made a strong late push for a World Cup berth. He was even named in coach Senol Gunes' preliminary 27-man squad, only to be one of the four not to make the final cut.

But while it was an obvious blow, good news was just around the corner in the shape of a big-time transfer. Despite insistent rumours linking him with French champions Lyon and newly promoted Serie A outfit Como, the 22-year-old eventually signed for Galatasaray.

"While I was flattered to hear that clubs in Italy and France appreciated me, to sign for Galatasaray was a tremendous honour," said Cihan. "I'll be playing with many of the Turkish squad that did so well at the World Cup and working with a legendary coach in Fatih Terim. I know I can become a better player under his influence.

"I was sad to leave Kocaelispor. They gave me my chance to make it as a footballer in the top division, and I grew up there. I'm glad I left Kocaelispor on a high after helping them win the Turkish Cup last season. To beat favourites Besiktas 4-0 and score our first goal was very special. It was the highlight of my career so far."

Galatasaray have acquired a good prospect in Cihan. Not only is he highly versatile, able to take on a number of midfield and defensive guises, but he is also a very composed individual. It is worth noting that in his five seasons as a regular first-teamer at Kocaelispor, he has improved steadily year after year. "Yes, we will miss Cihan a lot," declared Kocaelispor coach Hikmet Karaman. "He was one of our most consistent players. No matter what job he was given, we always knew he would give a dedicated display."

Gunes now seems to agree. In August, the Turkey boss gave Cihan his first cap as a second-half substitute in a friendly against Georgia in Trabzon and, with a perfect sense of occasion, the youngster headed in a corner for the Turks' second goal in their 3-0 win.

"I couldn't have dreamed of a better start to my time with the national team," said Cihan. "I know I've still a long way to go, but my aim is to stay in the squad and be ready if called on."

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Galatasaray
Country Turkey
Born January 4, 1980, in Diyarbakir
Previous club Kocaelispor
International debut August 2002, v Georgia
International caps 2 (1 goal)
Honours Turkish Cup 2002 (Kocaelispor)

Scala falls from grace

Oleg Zadernovsky on the premature end to the Italian's reign at Shakhtar

UKRAINE

COACH Nevio Scala has been forced to leave champions Shakhtar Donetsk after serving only half of his 18-month contract. The experienced Italian paid a heavy price for his club's humiliating 5-1 defeat at Austria Wien in the UEFA Cup first round, first leg.

Scala had promised that he would lead the club to triumph in the competition following the disappointment of their Champions League exit to Club Brugge in the third qualifying round.

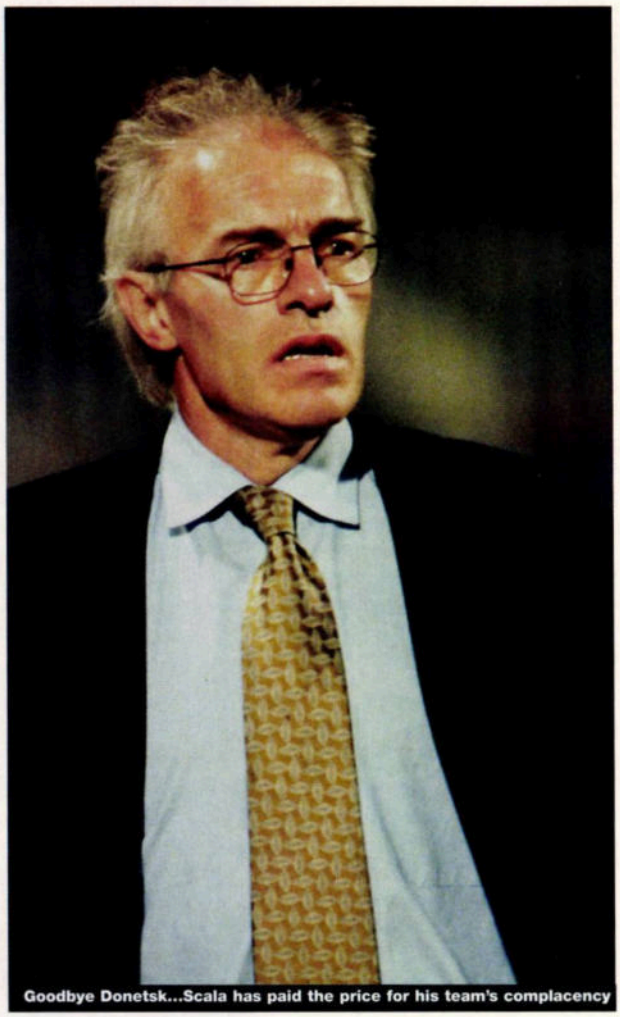
However, he clearly overestimated his players' potential following last season's domestic League and Cup double. The team have suffered all season from the complacency of their leading players, which has had a negative influence in the dressing-room.

Vice-president Valeriy Yaremchenko will take charge of the team until the winter break. Yaremchenko fulfilled a similar role for three months last season following the dismissal of Victor Prokopenko.

Meanwhile, Kyiv Dynamo president Ihor Surkis has apologised to the fans following the team's poor performance during the 5-0 Champions League rout by Juventus in Turin.

At home, Dnipro continued to top the League following an impressive 3-0 victory away to high-flying Arsenal.

Karpaty head coach Lev Brovarskyi has stepped down because of poor health and been replaced by Valentin Khodukin. Metalurh Zaporizhzhya, knocked out of the UEFA Cup by Leeds, have appointed Oleh Lutkov as caretaker after sacking Oleh Taran.



Goodbye Donetsk...Scala has paid the price for his team's complacency

POLAND

Bialek hangs on at battered Polonia

THREE of the country's four UEFA Cup representatives successfully negotiated the first round: Amica Wronki beat Servette on away goals after a 4-4 aggregate draw, Wisla Krakow thumped Slovenia's Primorje 8-1, and Legia Warsaw eased past Utrecht 7-2.

It was quite a different story for Legia's city rivals, Polonia, however. Their 2-0 home victory over FC Porto in the second leg was mere consolation after a 6-0 slaughter in Portugal. The position of Polonia coach Janusz Bialek appeared perilous after the first leg defeat. But former national coach Jerzy Engel denied speculation that he would rejoin Polonia after two years, and finally Bialek stayed on in the hot seat.

In the League, Odra Wodzislaw lost their unbeaten record and top spot, to Wisla, in spectacular style when beaten 4-0 at Gornik Zabrze.

Dariusz Kurowski

CZECH REPUBLIC

Sparta stay top

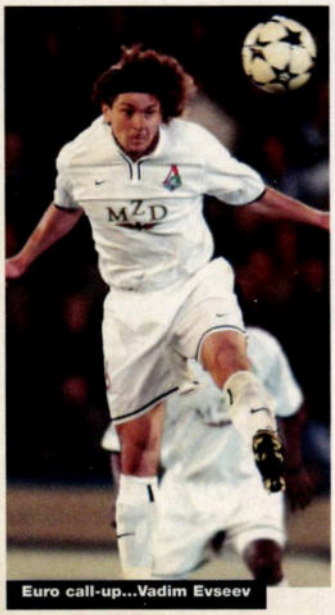
THOUGH still not firing on all cylinders, the Karel Poborsky-inspired Sparta Prague are still setting the pace in the League.

After winning their first five matches, Sparta surprisingly dropped their first points in a 1-1 draw at home to mid-table Chmel Blsany. However, Slovan Liberec missed the chance to take over the lead after having their 25-game unbeaten home run ended by Banik Ostrava 2-0.

The season's third coaching change came at Teplice, where Frantisek Cipro was replaced by his former assistant Frantisek Straha, who got off to a flying start with three wins in his first three matches.

All four Czech representatives made it through the first round of the UEFA Cup. Viktoria Zizkov beat Rangers on away goals after a 3-3 aggregate draw, Liberec were 4-2 victors over Dinamo Tbilisi, Slavia stunned Excelsior Mouscron 5-1 in the second leg having drawn 2-2 in Belgium, and Sparta cruised through 4-0 against Bosnia's Siroki Brijeg.

Roy Kitson



Euro call-up...Vadim Evseev

RUSSIA

Railwaymen on track for title

CSKA and Lokomotiv Moscow were leading the race for the title with a handful of games remaining as they sought to end a decade of dominance by city rivals Spartak.

After 26 of the 30 rounds, CSKA led by a point from Lokomotiv but had played one game more.

Lokomotiv, known as the Railwaymen because of the club's close ties with the Russian Ministry of Railroads, have built their challenge on a very solid defence, which conceded only nine goals in their first 24 League games, a national record. Not surprisingly, perhaps, goalkeeper Sergei Ovchinnikov and defenders Sergei Ignashevich, Gennadi Nizhegorodov and Vadim Evseev were all included in the national team squad for the two most recent Euro 2004 qualifiers.

Spartak, lying third four points behind Lokomotiv and having played two games more, appeared to have little chance of becoming champions for the seventh consecutive season. They have also made a dismal showing in the Champions League with three defeats out of three.

Victor Gusev

● Reigning **BELORUSSIAN** champions Belshina suffered another blow in their already troubled season when docked three points for transfer fee irregularities, *writes Oleg Zadernovsky*. The Bobruisk side, languishing in mid-table and in financial straits, were handed the punishment by the federation after failing to pay Dinamo Minsk for keeper Yuri Afanasyev and midfielder Vladimir Ostrikov.

SLOVAKIA

Vittek firing Slovan's challenge

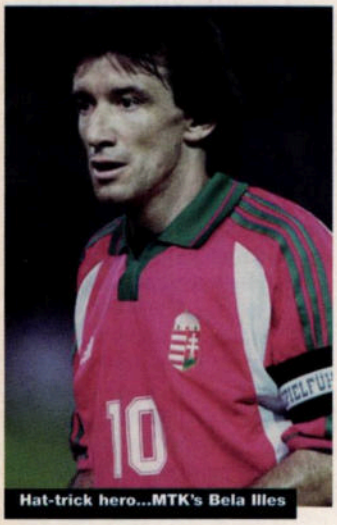
SLOVAN BRATISLAVA forward Robert Vittek is the man of the moment in Slovak football. The inspirational 20-year-old has averaged almost a goal a game for his club, who led second-placed Spartak Trnava by five points after 12 rounds.

Former FC Kosice coach Erik Bogdanovsky has taken over from Vladimir Rusnak at Ruzomberok after the team lost six games in a row.

Bogdanovsky, 33, recently resigned from Second Division Koba Senec, last season's domestic Cup winners, after the team were knocked out of the UEFA Cup.

Bottom-placed Trencin have also changed coach, with Anton Dragun hired for his second spell there to replace Robert Paldan. The switch came after the team's Cup exit at the hands of Third Division Stara Lubovna.

Roy Kitson



Hat-trick hero...MTK's Bela Illes

ROMANIA

Cosmin shows his worth

STEAUA almost got rid of coach Cosmin Olaroiu after the team took just one point from their first three games, but now the Bucharest club are feeling the benefit of life under their summer appointment.

The big derby against Dinamo – seen by many as make or break for Olaroiu – ended in a 1-1 draw, but Steaua were clearly the better side. They maintained their form with a 1-0 win in Ploiesti against Astra and a 3-0 home demolition of Bacau.

Rumours persist, however, of a rift between Olaroiu and predecessor, Victor Piturca, now general manager. Meanwhile, three of the former coach's stalwarts – Eugen Trica, Pompiliu Stoica and Catalin Lita – have sought transfers after being dropped by Olaroiu.

Rapid remained top of the table after an impressive 3-1 victory over Dinamo, but Politehnica AEK Timisoara's top-flight honeymoon appears to be over. Following their first defeat of the season – a 3-0 reverse at Rapid – they stripped top scorer Mihai Nicolae of the captaincy and dropped him to the reserves. Poli promptly lost 1-0 to Walter Zenga's National, who moved up to second.

Jonathan Wilson

BULGARIA

Goals fly in for CSKA's Dimitrov

CSKA SOFIA continue to look title material after extending their winning run to eight games, with former Under-21 striker Velizar Dimitrov scoring five goals.

Champions Levski have also been impressing, recording the best European result by a Bulgarian side in almost a decade by demolishing Brondby 4-1 at home in the UEFA Cup.

Georgi Haralampiev replaced Eduard Eranosyan as coach of stricken Dobrudzha following successive 5-0 defeats and a 9-1 reverse at Lokomotiv. Haralampiev at least managed to plug some gaps in the defence in his first game in charge as his new team drew 0-0 at home to Rilski Sportist.

Jonathan Wilson

HUNGARY

MTK march clear

MTK, inspired by a hat-trick from captain Bela Illes, beat Budapest rivals Kispest-Honved 5-3 away to continue their pacesetting start to the season. A subsequent 3-0 home win over promoted Bekescsaba put them seven points clear after nine games.

In the UEFA Cup Zalaegerszeg were humbled 9-1 on aggregate by Dinamo Zagreb, while Ujpest also went out, 4-0 to PSG. This left Ferencvaros, 5-0 victors over Kocaelispor, as Hungary's sole remaining representatives.

Peterjon Cresswell

Pro-file Florin Cernat

Romanian prodigy behind Kyiv Dynamo's creative play

NEWCASTLE boss Sir Bobby Robson is not likely to forget Kyiv Dynamo's Romanian playmaker Florin Cernat. After identifying the 22-year-old as Dynamo's creative hub, Robson had hoped to neutralise him by asking his team's usual right-back, Aaron Hughes, to man-mark him during their Champions League meeting. However, Cernat slipped his 'tail' and produced a man of the match performance in Dynamo's 2-0 victory.

Hughes need not be ashamed. Even the most seasoned markers would have found it difficult to stifle Cernat. The Romanian, nicknamed 'Diamond', is a player of perfect balance, intelligent movement, imagination and sweet left-foot passes. The late, great Dynamo coach Valerii Lobanovskyi undeniably picked up a bargain when he paid Dinamo Bucharest £2million for Romania's then Under-21 skipper midway through the 1999-00 season.

In less than two years, Cernat has blossomed into one of Europe's most promising midfielders. He hails from the eastern Romanian city of Galati and at 18 made an eye-catching senior debut for the local Otelul club. But after just a year the midfielder moved to Dinamo Bucharest, contributing to their League and Cup double of the 1999-00 season. Within 12 months he was off again, joining Kyiv Dynamo on a five-year contract in December 2000 despite interest from the likes of Ajax and Bayern Munich.

Since moving to Ukraine, Cernat's game has developed; he now puts in more incisive through balls and scores more frequently, too, including a goal in both legs of Dynamo's 2-0 aggregate victory over Levski Sofia that took them into the group phase of this season's Champions League. As expected, his good form earned him a full debut for Romania – ironically against Ukraine – last March, and with central midfielder Dorinel Munteanu arguably past his best, a long international career seems Cernat's for the taking.

"Cernat is a gem of a young player," says former Romania coach Mircea Lucescu, now at Besiktas. "He might be small but it makes no difference when he has such fantastic skill and awareness.

"It's wonderful Romanian football is still producing such talented youngsters as Mutu, Chivu, Niculae and Cernat. I'm sure this new generation will lead us to much better days."

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Kyiv Dynamo (Ukr)
Country Romania
Born March 10, 1980, in Galati
Previous clubs Otelul Galati, Dinamo Bucharest
International debut March 2002, v Ukraine
International caps 4 (0 goals)
Honours Romanian League 2000 (Dinamo); Romanian Cup 2000 (Dinamo)

Flair falls foul of referee

The punishment of a player for showing skill has disturbing repercussions, writes Brian Homewood

Blowing up a storm...referee Gaciba's treatment of Jaba (inset) defied all logic

BRAZIL

IT IS one of football's ultimate paradoxes. On the one hand, you have Brazil, five times world champions, famous for uplifting countless World Cups with their unique and exuberant style.

On the other, you have the Brazilian championship, probably the most violent football contest in the world, where defenders are allowed to repeatedly scythe down opponents and where matches produce an average of around 60 fouls.

The situation has now reached the point where a player has been penalised for trying to dribble. Coritiba were leading Santos 4-2 with minutes left when striker Jaba received the ball near the touchline, cheekily lifted his foot over the ball a couple of times as if he was about to set off on a dribble...and was promptly stopped in his tracks by referee Leonardo Gaciba Junior, who awarded Santos a free-kick.

Gaciba Junior's logic was that Jaba was provoking the opposition and in doing so was risking injury. "The rule says that a player cannot endanger an opponent or himself," Gaciba Junior told the sports newspaper *Lance*. "He wasn't being objective so I awarded a free-kick to protect him. If somebody had broken his leg, people would say I was not clamping down on violence."

Brazilian commentators were naturally horrified by the precedent being set. Former FIFA referee Jose Roberto Wright led the criticism of what he saw as twisted logic. "What Leonardo Gaciba did was absurd, it can't happen," he said. "What he in fact did was to stamp out the skill of the player and not the violence of the opponents. Imagine what would have happened if the referee had given a free-kick every time Garrincha lifted his foot over the ball? There wouldn't be any football left."

An indignant Brazilian media joined Wright in calling on their country's traditions to be preserved. "I haven't got the patience to watch a game with 189 fouls and with the ball in play for 22 minutes," said Cesar Seabra in *Lance*, exaggerating – but not much.

"There's no fun left in football," added Roberto Assaf in *Jornal do Brasil*. "One little flick is enough to make the opponent lose his head."

Fernando Calazans, in *O Globo*, wrote: "Where on earth have you seen a player be protected by having a free-kick awarded against him? Mr Gaciba has to allow Jaba to play. His Highness has a duty to protect football, punishing the bully boys with their perverse sliding tackles, their flying scissors-kicks and their repetitive fouling, carried out on the orders of bully-boy coaches."

But while the critics were up in arms, the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) remained eerily silent. Not a word emerged from the organisation's new corporate bunker, located in an isolated and distant suburb on the edge of Rio de Janeiro, where the refereeing commission is controlled by Armando Marques. During his own refereeing days, he famously lost count of the goals scored during a penalty shoot-out.

Marques has allowed a rather sickening mentality to develop. The game is infested with so-called midfield hardmen – Roma's Emerson is a leading exponent – who believe kicking a player from behind or punching him while his back is turned is a 'manly' act. The same players hate being the victims of a piece of trickery, such as having the ball flicked through their legs, believing it to be an insult to their manhood.

Referees side with the hatchet men by turning a blind eye to their cynical aggressions and by freely handing out yellow cards to players for offences such as dissent and retaliation. Coaches have been caught in the act of instructing their players to kick the opposition. It is often dubbed *futebol brucutu* – literally bully-boy football.

Days before the Jaba incident, a player in a Second Division match between Sport Recife and Botafogo-Ribeirao Preto was attacked by opponents after nonchalantly playing keepy-up while his team were winning 3-0. Three years ago, a Paulista championship Final between Corinthians and Palmeiras was abandoned because of a brawl which started when striker Edilson, who played for Brazil in the World Cup this year, began playing keepy-up. None of the brawlers were punished.

Tostao, the 1970 World Cup striker, summed it up in his newspaper column, saying: "Brazilian athletes have no sense of anticipation and can't tackle without knocking over their opponent. They confuse virility with aggression, and tough marking with plain kicking. They complain too much and disturb the referees. The World Cup team was an exception.

"The coaches are responsible as well. Indirectly, they encourage violence with their instructions to 'kill the play'. A lot of Brazilian coaches believe that the team which commits more fouls wins the game."

Fouling aside, the national championship has developed into one of the most unpredictable in years. Lesser lights such as Coritiba and Juventude are among the leaders, while some of the big fish – notably Palmeiras and Rio de Janeiro quartet Fluminense, Vasco da Gama, Flamengo and Botafogo – are all fighting relegation. The top eight qualify for the knockout stages, while the bottom four, in theory at least, play in the Second Division next year.

Palmeiras, four times champions and winners of the Libertadores Cup only three seasons ago, slumped to the bottom after a dismal run of nine matches without a win. Two coaches, Vanderlei Luxemburgo (Brazil coach 1998-2000) and Flavio Murtosa (assistant to Luiz Felipe Scolari at this year's World Cup) resigned, Brazil's World Cup keeper Marcos asked to be dropped after conceding 25 goals in 11 games, and the pressure proved too much even for the team psychologist. Jacob Pinheiro Goldberg quit, complaining he had not been allowed to spend enough time with the players. "I take my work seriously," he said. "Just giving lectures is not enough. My work needs to be more intense to produce results."

He added: "The team has excellent potential, but most of the players are convinced their work will not produce results. The succession of defeats has become too heavy."

Levir Culpi, the latest occupant of the hot seat, said the players were so embarrassed they avoided walking in the street. "They are too ashamed even to go to the baker's," he said.

Palmeiras eventually broke their duck by beating Paysandu 1-0, when Marcos returned to the team and made two crucial saves. The players celebrated as if they had won the championship.

Fluminense's slump coincided with a lean spell for veteran striker Romario. After scoring three goals in his first three games, the 36-year-old appeared to be justifying Scolari's decision to leave him out of the World Cup squad when he failed to hit the target in eight of his next nine. His frustration boiled over during a 6-0 thumping by Sao Paulo, when he attacked team-mate Andrei after the defender made a mistake.

Romario was suspended for one match for ungentlemanly conduct and fined 40 per cent of his wages. All this came amid rumours of bad feeling in the squad over the fact that Romario was being paid on time. While the other players were going two or three months without wages, Romario's pay came directly from the pockets of the team sponsors.

The 'Dance of the Coaches' continued unabated. In less than three months of competition, 14 were either fired or resigned, with Palmeiras and Botafogo changing twice each.

Botafogo were involved in the strangest case. Abel Braga, who resigned in June before the start of the championship, returned 46 days later after replacement Arthur Bernardes himself stepped down. Braga, however, was not a magician and, after only seven games in charge, quit for the second time.

Round-up

Champions...Nacional

URUGUAY: Nacional clinched the opening championship by winning 2-0 at traditional rivals Penarol in the penultimate game. Penarol suffered a further blow when docked three points for the closing tournament because of crowd trouble during an earlier game.

PERU: Sporting Cristal, unbeaten in 12 games, are running away with the closing championship. Their cause has been helped by closest rivals Alianza Atletico and champions Alianza Lima being docked three points after their players failed to appear for drug tests.

PARAGUAY: Libertadores Cup holders Olimpia opted not to enter the Copa Sudamerica in order to concentrate on the League. After 12 of the 18 closing championship games, they were joint top with Sportivo Luqueno, a point ahead of opening winners Libertad.

BOLIVIA: Oriente Petrolero striker Jose Alfredo Castillo is in line to break his own Bolivian League scoring record having hit 33 goals. Last season the 18-year-old scored 42.

COLOMBIA: Veteran international goalkeeper Rene Higuita, 35, has made another comeback, helping modest Deportivo Pereira off the bottom of the closing championship table. Millonarios slipped to bottom, prompting coach Jose Hernandez to resign. Deportivo Cali led after 12 rounds.

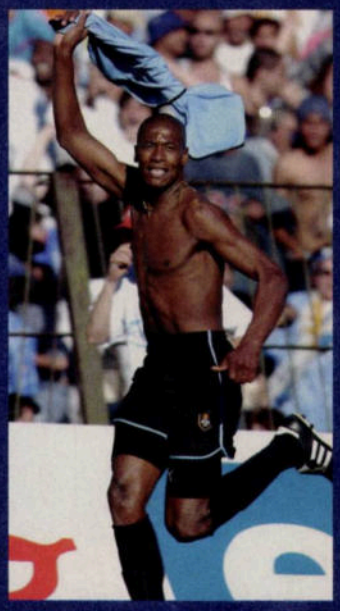
CHILE: Players and coaches of the 32 First and Second Division clubs went on strike for 23 days over unpaid salaries and the clubs' tactic of sacking players to whom they owed money. Two rounds of the closing championship were suspended and a third played with juniors. Finally, the South American confederation lent the Chilean FA £160,000 to pay off salary arrears, and dismissed players were reinstated.

ECUADOR: Hernan Dario Gomez, the Colombian coach who took Ecuador to the World Cup for the first time this year, has signed a new four-year deal.

Eric Weil

Pro-file Richard Morales

Wholehearted forward trying to get over his World Cup howler



IT IS one of the abiding memories of the World Cup. Uruguay had staged a superb comeback from 3-0 down in the final group game against Senegal and needed one more goal to book their passage into the second round. With almost the last kick of the game Gustavo Varela's shot was cleared off the line by Lamine Diatta. The ball looped invitingly in the air, three yards from goal. Underneath it stood Richard Morales, but he had too long to think about the importance of the moment. Paralysed by pressure, he allowed the ball to roll off his head as if it were a lump of cheese. His effort bobbled embarrassingly wide, and Uruguay were out.

It does Morales no justice. Without his goals in the play-off against Australia, Uruguay would not even have gone to South Korea. The gangling striker will never be a subtle attacking weapon but six goals in 14 internationals is an impressive record, especially as over half his appearances have been as a substitute.

Morales is not without his admirers. In a type of deal common in South America, influential agent Paco Casal has just bought 50 per cent of the forward's registration, enabling his club, Nacional, to clear a backlog of unpaid wages. Casal hopes to cash in when the European transfer window re-opens.

Morales takes pride in his wholehearted approach. "I give everything," he says, "and that's why the fans like me." He plays the game with the enthusiasm of a man grasping a chance that came comparatively late. After years with tiny clubs, Morales was 24 when Nacional decided to take a gamble on him.

Subsequent progress is shown by his displays in the Libertadores Cup. In 2000 he was on the bench, in 2001 he was in the team, and this year he was Nacional's top marksman. Morales also played a big part in the domestic championship wins of 2000 and 2001.

At times his enthusiasm has got the better of him. Twice he has been jailed for fighting, once after a nightclub incident, once following a pitch brawl with fierce rivals Penarol. In between spells of incarceration he injured himself falling into a moat when celebrating a goal.

"I'm more mature now," he insists. "My head is in the right place and I'm set on achieving important things on the field."

There will surely be more clumsy misses. But Morales has reacted to his historic blunder with the same fire that helped Uruguay make it to their first World Cup in 12 years.

Tim Vickery

Fact file

Club Nacional
Country Uruguay
Born February 21, 1975, in Montevideo
Previous clubs Progresso de Canalones, Basanez
International debut July 2001, v Bolivia
International caps 14 (6 goals)
Honours Uruguayan League 2000, 2001

Angel, 40, still delighting

River Plate's veteran keeper has been the star of the opening championship, writes Eric Weil

Soldiering on...Angel Comizzo is still a formidable last line of defence

ARGENTINA

WHILE the trend among Argentinian clubs is to send out younger and younger teams, it has been 40-year-old goalkeeper Angel Comizzo making the headlines.

The River Plate man has been in top form, making a string of superb saves and helping his side to second place in the opening championship after 11 rounds. The keeper had a big hand in River's 2-1 win at leaders Independiente, who had previously been unbeaten.

"For us, Comizzo is a very important player who bosses the defence with his vast experience," said River's Chilean coach Manuel Pellegrini after the game. "He put in an outstanding performance today, as a number of goalkeepers have done against us."

When asked about the secret of his longevity, Comizzo replies: "The enthusiasm I still have and the privileged physique God gave me. I've always been careful with what I eat and led a quiet life. Usually, I'm in bed by 11.30pm. Obviously things are harder for me than before, but I still feel very fit and love what I am doing."

River's title challenge has been hampered by their relatively poor form at home, where they won only two of their first five games. Comizzo and team captain Leo Astrada both agree that the club misses midfielder Ariel Ortega – now with Fenerbahce in Turkey – "who could win half the matches on his own".

That said, heir apparent Andres D'Alessandro is getting better and better and is undoubtedly the other star of the championship to date. Although the 21-year-old has been linked with a number of top Italian clubs, the closing of the transfer window has temporarily put a stop to any move.

With reference to the window, which is new in parts of Europe, it should be pointed out that in Argentina – and most other South American countries – domestic transfers were never allowed during the season. Only since the championship was split into opening and closing tournaments in 1991 have two transfers per club been allowed between the two campaigns. Coincidentally, this period falls in January, as does the European window.

Despite defeat by River, Independiente still led the way in the opening campaign with eight games to play. They began the season next-to-bottom in the relegation averages (calculated on the basis of points gained over the past three seasons) and needed a good campaign to avoid going down. With the club also in financial difficulties, things looked bleak.

However, Daniel Grinbank, a lifelong fan and millionaire from his success as a rock concert organiser, came to Independiente's rescue. He arranged to buy practically a whole new team, while coach Americo Gallego, who had a say in the purchases, has miraculously welded them into a free-scoring side. After 11 games they had hit 32 goals, eight more than the team with the next highest total, Rosario Central.

Racing Club have recovered from a poor start, and secured a mid-table slot after a six-game unbeaten run. This included a 4-3 win at Boca Juniors and a 1-0 aggregate win over River that put them into the quarter-finals of the new Copa Sudamerica.

Coach Osvaldo Ardiles has admitted making a mistake in trying to introduce European tactics to the side, encouraging his players to press more than is normal in Argentina. "It needed much more physical effort, and the players were not in a condition to carry it out," said the former Tottenham player and manager.

Even so, Racing have become something of a second-half team, gaining many of their points by scoring in the later stages of games. Their great fighting spirit is typified by midfielder Adrian Bastia.

Third-placed Boca Juniors are suffering from the fact that they have too many young and inexperienced players. In fact, they have loaned out some 20 of them to gain first-team experience they cannot get at Boca.

Rosario Central, who started the season at the bottom of the relegation averages, failed to keep up their good start under former national coach Cesar Menotti and have yet to climb from the drop zone.

A raft of coaching changes has failed to improve the League positions of the clubs involved. There have been six altogether, counting the departure of Reinaldo Merlo from Racing Club after a pre-season tour. The others to go are: Daniel Cordoba (Lanus), Enzo Trossero (Talleres Cordoba), Miguel Brindisi (Huracan), Ernesto Cravotto (Estudiantes de La Plata) and Francisco Ferraro (Chacarita Juniors).

OBITUARIES

- **Francisco Ramon Lojacono, the Argentina-born striker who won eight caps for Italy, has died of a heart attack aged 66 in Palombara Sabina, near Rome. Lojacono started his career with San Lorenzo in his native country before playing for Roma and a number of other Italian clubs.**
- **Dida, a member of Brazil's 1958 World Cup-winning squad, has died of a liver infection and respiratory problems in a Rio de Janeiro hospital, aged 68. The forward, birth name Edvaldo Alves de Santa Rosa, also won the Carioca title three times (1953 to 1955) with Flamengo, for whom he remains the second highest scorer of all time (244 goals).**
- **Mauro Ramos de Oliveira, captain of Brazil's 1962 World Cup-winning side, has died of cancer in Pozos de Caldas, Minas Gerais state, aged 72. In his club career, the elegant defender won five national championships with Sao Paulo and two Libertadores Cups with Santos.**
- **Julio Perez, a World Cup winner with Uruguay in 1950, has died in Montevideo, aged 76. The midfielder won the domestic championship four times with Nacional before moving to Brazilian side Internacional of Porto Alegre in 1957. He later coached clubs in Uruguay, Paraguay and Mexico.**

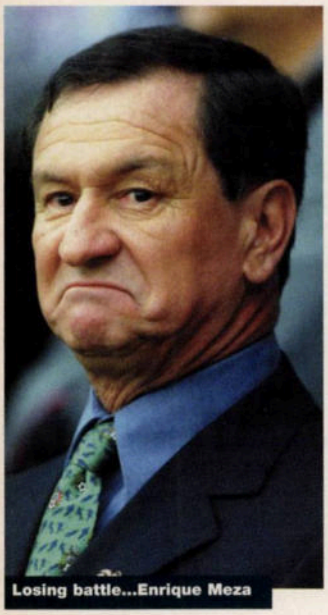
MEXICO

Carry on sacking

AFTER a lull of seven weeks since the start of the opening championship, the coaching merry-go-round has started to move again. Four bosses left within a fortnight – Hugo Fernandez (Veracruz), Sergio Bueno (Santos), Gustavo Vargas (Puebla) and former national coach Enrique Meza (Atlas). The latter departed after his side suffered five consecutive defeats and Meza failed to win his players over to his coaching style.

Another ex-Mexico boss, Manuel Lapuente, has retaken the coaching reins at his club, America, having taken a leave of absence for what were termed "medical reasons".

His return was an unexpectedly delicate matter, given that America had done so well in his absence under caretaker Mario Carrillo. Indeed, club officials were keen to



Losing battle...Enrique Meza

keep Carrillo in charge after America took 26 points out of 30, the best record of any top-flight side. However, Carrillo claimed he had made "an honorary commitment to leave as soon as Lapuente returned", and was true to his word.

Toluca's push for a play-off place has been fired by the prolific Jose Cardozo, who hit 13 goals in the first 10 rounds, making him almost certain to finish top scorer.

Carlos Ramirez

Pro-file Carlos Ruiz

Guatemalan forward playing a starring role for Los Angeles Galaxy

IN NOVEMBER 1998, Sigi Schmid was taking his obligations as the United States' Under-20 team coach pretty seriously. He decided to sit up watching tapes of CONCACAF qualifying games for the World Youth Cup from the group not involving the USA. That meant he saw Guatemala three times and Schmid – despite increasingly bleary eyes – spotted something interesting: the centre-forward.

"There was something there I liked," Schmid recalls. "A certain cockiness to his play. Whenever he was near the box it was as if he would sacrifice everything to get to the ball."

The next year, Schmid, by now head coach of Los Angeles Galaxy, was scouting for promising young Americans. In Hershey, Pennsylvania to watch the US Olympic team play qualifiers for Sydney 2000 he ran into Guatemala again – and the player who had so impressed him

Schmid knew his name by now: Carlos Ruiz.

"That was where I saw him live for the first time," says Schmid, "and he confirmed my first impressions. A goal poacher. There was this tremendous aggressiveness in the box."

Ruiz was already something of a phenomenon in Guatemala, a kid who had played for the national team at every age level and was captain of the Olympic team. He had made his professional debut at 16 with Guatemala City team Municipal. His senior international debut came in 1999.

Schmid tried to keep track of Ruiz, but soon came disastrous news: in 2001 Ruiz packed his bags for Europe to join Greek club Giannina. But disappointment soon turned to renewed hope. Within six months Ruiz was back in Guatemala. Things had not gone well in Greece for the youngster, who had felt under-appreciated, under-used and just plain homesick.

By now Schmid had contacts in Guatemala, and they told him Ruiz's mother lived in Los Angeles and that the player wanted to come to the USA. By early this year it was all arranged. On March 23, Ruiz played his first game for Galaxy and scored both goals in their 2-1 win over DC United.

So it went on. By the season's end, Galaxy had scored 44 goals and Ruiz had claimed 24 of them, making him the League's top scorer – though he will be denied the seasonal award from MLS because it counts goals and assists. New England's Taylor Twellman scored 23 goals but had six assists to Ruiz's one.

No question, Schmid has come up with a treasure. El Pescadito, the little fish, was Ruiz's nickname in Guatemala, but he can't remember why they called him that. In Los Angeles, everyone calls him simply Fish.

Ruiz is only 5ft 9in but he plays so much taller and stronger than he looks. He's fast, he leaps, he wins tackles. The physical side is all there in a compact, superbly balanced body. His timing and confidence is even more impressive. So you wonder, does he need any coaching at all? Schmid seems to be clutching at straws: "His layoffs need to be better..." a pause, then "...and his left foot can improve". Suddenly, the coach sounds like a dauber suggesting improvements to the *Mona Lisa*.

Ruiz has impressed Schmid off the field, too. "He's just fitted in so well with the team. He doesn't just hang out with the Hispanic players, he mixes with everyone. But he's very proud of being Guatemalan. He never forgets that he comes from a very poor background. Soccer has been the way out for him, so he wants to help others. He's in touch with old friends, he sends soccer kit down there for the kids."

A paragon, then – which invites the big question: How long can Galaxy hold on to Ruiz before the European scouting vultures whisk him away? "We definitely feel one more year," says Schmid. "After that we'll have to see what happens. If he has another season like this one, it'll be tough."

Paul Gardner

Fact file

Club Los Angeles Galaxy (USA)
Country Guatemala
Born September 15, 1979, in Guatemala City
Previous clubs Municipal, Giannina (Gre), Municipal
International caps 24 (12 goals)

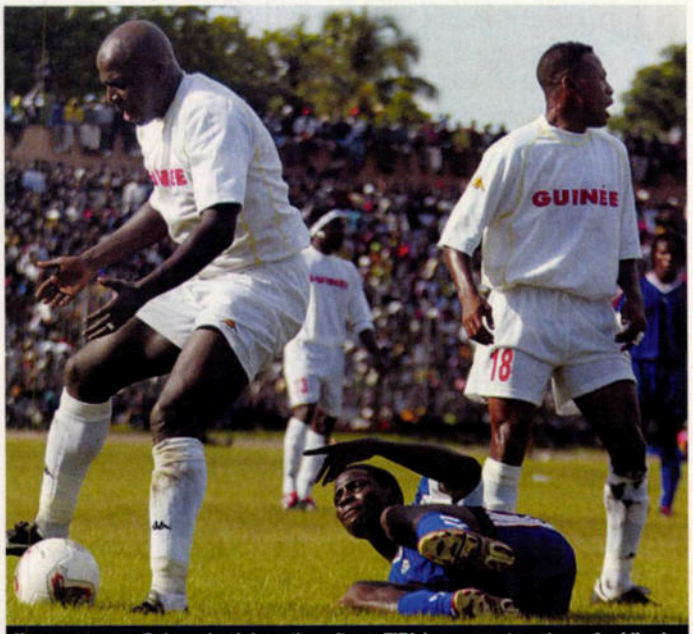
Past masters lose out

Egypt and Ghana stumble as the 2004 qualifying campaign gets under way. Mark Gleeson reports

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP

EGYPT and Ghana have won the African Nations Cup more times than any other country – but their bids for places at the 2004 finals in Tunisia faltered on the opening weekend of qualifiers. Egypt's Pharaohs and the Black Stars of Ghana, both four times winners of the tournament, were beaten by Madagascar and Uganda respectively on a weekend when the supposed minnows of African football took the spotlight.

Madagascar's new coach Hans Heiniger gambled in a last-minute decision to bring back several of the country's old guard – and it paid off. In recent months Madagascar had decided to ignore their ageing stars, most of whom had been playing on the nearby French island of Reunion, but the Swiss coach belatedly decided to include them for the game against Egypt. One of the recallees, Ruphin Menakely, returned the compliment by scoring the only goal of the game.



Happy returns...Guinea, back in action after a FIFA ban, were too strong for Liberia

Uganda outplayed Ghana's new group of rising stars in Kampala to register another surprise result. Phillip Obwiny netted in the 53rd minute to seal victory in Group 13.

There were rare wins, too, for countries such as Benin, Cape Verde Islands, Niger, the Seychelles and Kenya. Benin, now coached by Belgian Rene Taelman, achieved the biggest win of the weekend with a 4-0 thrashing of Tanzania in Cotonou. Kenya struck three without reply past Group 5 top seeds Togo, although Cape Verde Islands also staked their claim for a finals place from the same group after winning 2-0 away in Mauritania.

Seychelles recorded only their third victory ever by beating Eritrea 1-0 at home with a long-range shot from Roddy Victor. It was also the

Round-up

Lemerre takes helm in Tunisia

Pastures new...Lemerre

ROGER LEMERRE, sacked by France after the World Cup, is the new coach of the **TUNISIAN** national side. Lemerre has agreed a contract until the 2004 African Nations Cup, with an option to extend it if Tunisia reach the semi-finals.

Defender Tarek Thabet, who played in the last two World Cups, has announced his international retirement.

Elsewhere in **NORTH AFRICA**, Francisco Cuccinota has taken over at Mouloudia Constantine in **ALGERIA**. The Swiss coach was previously in charge of Ivorian side Africa Sports.

In **MOROCCO**, Wydad Casablanca fired Rachid Taoussoui despite reaching the African Cup-winners Cup semi-finals. Veteran Argentinian Luis Oscar Fullone, who guided neighbours Raja Casablanca to their 1999 African Champions League triumph, has taken over.

Former Nigeria striker Victor Ikpeba has joined Al Ittihad in **LIBYA** from Borussia Dortmund.

CENTRAL AFRICA

Winfried Schafer has been handed a two-year contract extension as **CAMEROON** coach.

Former Belgium defender Michel de Wolf has been named national coach of **GABON**.

Four players from **DR CONGO'S** AS Vita Club disappeared while in France on their way back home from an African Cup-winners Cup tie against Wydad Casablanca of Morocco. They are believed to have sought trials with clubs in Europe.

EAST AFRICA

Mathare United, first formed for homeless children in the slums of Nairobi, will play Kenya Pipeline in the Final of the Moi Golden Cup, **KENYA'S** equivalent of the FA Cup.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Bulawayo club Highlanders secured a fourth successive **ZIMBABWEAN** championship with four matches to spare.

AS Aviacao won the **ANGOLAN** championship to become only the fourth side to lift the title. The airline club, coached by Portuguese Bernardino Pedroto, are the first since 1985 to break the monopoly of Luanda's top two sides – Petro Atletico and Primeiro Agosto.

Former **SOUTH AFRICAN** international Alfred Phiri has returned to sign for Jomo Cosmos after several seasons in Turkey.

Champions Santos won the Top Eight Cup, beating Mamelodi Sundowns 2-0 in the Final.

BOTSWANA have appointed Yugoslav Vesselin Jelusic to take over their national side on a two-year contract.

Next year's **COSAFA CASTLE CUP** draw sees Madagascar host Mauritius in the first match on February 22; Namibia play Botswana in Windhoek on March 15; Lesotho are at Mozambique on April 6; and Angola travel to Zimbabwe on April 20. The winners will join South Africa (holders), Malawi, Swaziland and Zambia in the quarter-finals.

WEST AFRICA

Former Cannes coach Michel Sussier has been appointed to take charge of **GUINEA'S** national team.

GHANA have named Emmanuel Afranie as their coach after the departure of Yugoslav Milan Zivadinovic, who was in charge for just one match before resigning. Zivadinovic departed after Ghana's surprise 1-0 loss to Uganda in the first 2004 Nations Cup qualifier.

Former Chelsea manager Ian Porterfield was sacked by Asante Kotoko after a row with the chairman over tactics and selection. He had been with Kotoko for only two months.

LIBERIAN international Kelvin Sebwe has left Panahaiki of Greece to join Al Ahli in the United Arab Emirates, where compatriots George Weah and James Debbah play for Al Jazira.

Mawuena Kodjovi has been appointed the new coach of **TOGO**. He takes over from Franco-Italian Diego Garzito, who left after just one match in charge – a 3-0 defeat by Kenya in their opening African Nations Cup qualifier.

ASFA Yennega won the League in **BURKINA FASO**. Army club USFA took their first Cup, beating ASFB 2-0 in the Final.

Mark Gleeson

first game in two years for the islanders, now coached by former France World Cup midfielder Dominique Bathenay. He said: "We still have to continue working on our defence, which gave us a fright at times. I believe there was somebody up there looking on us. Still, my players deserve every congratulation for the win."

Eritrea's assistant coach was sent off after dousing the linesman with water to protest a decision during the match.

A bizarre own goal after four minutes was enough to give Algeria victory in Namibia in Group 12. The home side replaced their goalkeeper after 32 minutes after some erratic decisions almost cost them more goals.

Guinea, back in competitive action for the first time since FIFA banned them during the 2002 World Cup qualifiers, showed their capabilities with a 3-0 thumping of Liberia in Conakry. Titi Camara, who has been kicking his heels in the reserves at West Ham in England, scored in the first minute to set up the win.

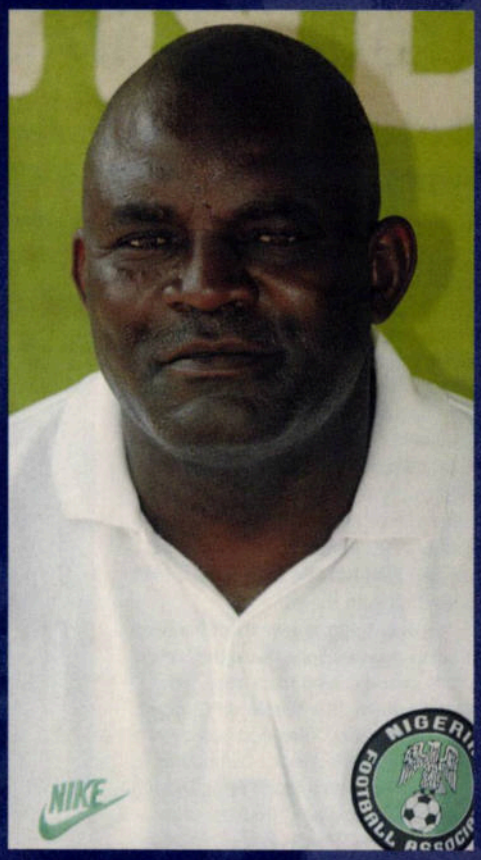
Henri Camara, whose goals steered Senegal into the World Cup quarter-finals, was on the mark again, helping the West Africans to a winning start in Group 8. Senegal won 1-0 in Lesotho with Camara netting just before half-time. However, they were without African Footballer of the Year El Hadji Diouf.

Senegal's relatively easy group – it also contains Gambia and Sao Tome e Principe – contrasts sharply with those of two other World Cup finalists, Nigeria and South Africa. However, both won hard-earned, and potentially vital away points in goalless draws against Angola and Ivory Coast respectively.

Nigeria's new coach Christian Chukwu called up a strong squad but had to play a makeshift team after many of the country's top overseas-based players, including Arsenal's Nwankwo Kanu, did not show for the game. The Ivorians faced South Africa without top scorer Ibrahima Bakayoko of Marseille, who was kicked out of the camp on the eve of the game because of indiscipline.

Q&A Christian Chukwu

CHRISTIAN CHUKWU is the latest incumbent in one of the hottest seats in African football – coach of the Nigerian national team. The 51-year-old from Enugu returns to the spotlight having worked with Clemens Westerhof at the helm of the Nigerian side that won the African Nations Cup in 1994 and qualified for a first World Cup appearance in the USA the same year. As captain, he took the Super Eagles to their first Nations Cup title in 1980 and with Enugu Rangers won the African Cup-winners Cup in 1977. He has also coached Lebanese club Saafa and the Kenyan national side.



WORLD SOCCER: What are your plans and ambitions for Nigeria?

CHRISTIAN CHUKWU: I have a very big plan but I'm hoping people will have patience because it will take time to materialise. If you notice, in our team now players such as Jay-Jay Okocha, Kanu and Taribo West are ageing...We need replacements, and this is my major concern. I want to get a very solid team back home, made up of home-based players, because without that no country goes anywhere. When you have a solid home-based team you need to give them a lot of international matches to play, then add the foreign-based players.

How excited are you about the new generation of Nigerian players?

I am excited in the sense that when you go to Nigeria there are a lot of young talented players, who we need to scout, polish and assist to get to clubs overseas, so that our football will continue to be where it is. In Nigeria only football brings the whole country together and once we allow it to die, the unity will die. That is why we want to go back to basics again, because everything now is so scattered. We have to look again at the Under-16 side, the Under-20s, the Under-23s. All these things have been allowed to die down, and we need to revive them.

Are there specific players around whom you are looking to build a foundation?

Yes, once you have that foundation in Nigeria, it will also help our relationship with the foreign-based players and ensure that ties with their clubs are cordial. We can't keep on calling Okocha, Kanu, Taribo for every little match. They are human beings and we overstretch them at times. We must give them a break in these Nations Cup qualifiers and once we have qualified then we can mix up the youngsters with the foreign-based players and form a formidable team.

But how sure are you that you will be around tomorrow to carry out these plans, because there is so much talk about the hiring of a foreign coach for Nigeria?

There is always talk, but things are changing a bit. The FA secretary-general we have now is a former footballer, we played together. When you are talking football he understands. The new sports minister was also once a footballer and he understands. I believe with the management we have now, the job security will be there.

But is Nigeria a patient nation? The fans want victory and nothing but.

When you let them know about your programme, they are bound to listen and have that patience. It is not that we are not going to qualify for the African Nations Cup finals, but we have to plan. When Okocha doesn't come for a game or Kanu is not there, then everybody is scared. Why should it be like that? In a nation of over 100 million people, we should have four or five Okochas and Kanus. When we get there, that will be the time when we'll have everything right in the team. So it requires patience.

World football sentiment says Nigeria is the one African country with the real potential to win a World Cup. Do you believe that is true?

I believe that it will happen but we must have proper planning and management. If we can win the Under-16 World Championship, play in the Final of the Under-20 World Youth Cup, win gold at the Olympic Games, then what stops us from winning the World Cup? It is planning, planning. The countries that win it are not necessarily the best, but they have a perfect programme. We cannot win it for Africa when you keep changing coaches every day, disbanding teams every day, changing administration every day. You can get as far as you like depending on how you map out and execute your programme.

Interview by Mark Gleeson

Troussier in line for China job

The former Japan boss is favourite to succeed Milutinovic, writes Michael Church

FORMER Japan coach Philippe Troussier has emerged as the front-runner to replace Bora Milutinovic as head coach of the Chinese national team.

The Frenchman, who led Japan to the second round of the World Cup, is believed to have already been offered terms by the Chinese FA, though a number of Chinese candidates are known to be in contention. Shen Xiangfu, highly rated by the FA, has been linked with the post and recently took over as Olympic team boss. Current Asian Player of the Year Fan Zhiyi has also been mentioned in connection with the job.

Troussier spent four years at the helm of Japan and was linked with the French and Tunisian national team posts when stepping down after the World Cup. His candidacy for the China post has been boosted by the backing of compatriot Claude Le Roy, head coach of high-flying Shanghai Zhongyuan. "Troussier is an excellent coach. He has lots of character, is young and full of energy, and loves football with his life," said Le Roy. "He is totally committed and I believe he will do an excellent job for China."

China qualified for their first World Cup under Milutinovic, who quit following defeats at the hands of Turkey, Brazil and Costa Rica in the group stage of the finals.

Since the tournament, debate has raged in China over whether the nation should hire another foreign coach or turn, once again, to a local.

Eastern promise...Troussier impressed during his time as Japan coach

DPMM dip after win

BRUNEI champions DPMM warmed up for the Asian Champions League by defeating Thailand's BEC Tero Sasana 1-0 in the Final of the Brunei Invitational Cup. They became the first local side to win the competition, which features the champions of China, Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia.

But the Champions League was another matter as DPMM lost 3-0 in the first leg of their second qualifying round encounter with Singapore's Geylang United. Mohd Noor Ali struck twice and Aleksander Duric added the third as Geylang put themselves in a strong position to reach the third round, the last hurdle before the group stage.

India's Mohun Bagan and New Radiant from the Maldives both reached the second round by defeating Sri Lankan opposition – Saunders and Air Force respectively.

In the western half of the draw, which has four qualifying rounds, Uzbekistan's Pakhtakor booked their place in the third round with a 4-3 aggregate win over Al Wihdat of Jordan. Ahli Sana'a of Yemen beat Jashtyk of Kyrgyzstan, Al Faisaly disposed of Beirut's Al Ansar, and the UAE's Al Ahli knocked out Al Kuwait.

Michael Church

Asian round-up

Afghans return to action

AFGHANISTAN marked their return to world football at the Asian Games thanks to a £25,000 donation from FIFA. The war-ravaged nation, one of the founder members of the Asian Football Confederation, had not competed internationally for 18 years but were invited to take part after Mongolia's last-minute withdrawal. The Afghans were soon given an idea of the size of the task ahead of them when losing 10-0 to Iran in their opening fixture in Busan.

Daniel Bennett, a defender with English Third Division side Wrexham, has become the latest overseas-born player to gain **SINGAPORE** citizenship. The 24-year-old centre-half, who will be eligible to play in the Tiger Cup in December, was born in Great Yarmouth but lived in Singapore from the age of two until earlier this year. He joins Brazilian Egmar Goncalves and Mirko Grabovic of Croatia as Singapore's foreign-born recruits.

Mohsen Safae-Farahani has stood down as president of the **IRANIAN** federation and been replaced by Mohammad Daadkhan. Meanwhile, the national team won the four-nation LG Cup, beating Paraguay 5-4 on penalties in the Final. Morocco and South Africa were the other contestants.

Iranian side Esteghlal gave new coach Ronald Koch his first silverware by beating Foulad 1-0 in the Final of the six-team Union Cup. Yadollah Akbari scored the winner from a 70th-minute penalty.

Fifty Beijing Guoan supporters were arrested after enraged fans ran amok in the centre of the **CHINESE** capital following the 1-1 home draw with arch-rivals Shanghai.

Cameroon World Cup striker Patrick Suffo has joined **SAUDI ARABIAN** club Al Ahli from English First Division side Sheffield United on a £300,000, one-year contract. Nigeria forward Tijani Babangida has signed for rivals Al Ittihad.

Asian Club Champions Suwon Bluewings continued their climb up **SOUTH KOREA'S** K-League standings after Brazilian striker Sandro Cardoso scored a late winner against bottom-placed Daejeon Citizen. Suwon had a poor start to the championship race but the victory lifted them to fourth, nine points behind leaders and defending champions Songnam Ilhwa and with a game in hand.

Former Kyiv Dynamo player Vladimir Bessonov was the surprise appointee to the **TURKMENISTAN** national team job, though he will be offered a long-term contract only if his initial results are good.

The **SOUTH ASIAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION CUP** will be held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in January, a year after it was postponed following FIFA's suspension of the Bangladesh federation. The ban was lifted after the sacked committee was reinstated and fresh elections held in February. Seven teams – Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka – are expected to take part.

Michael Church, Azam Mahmood, Oleg Zadernovsky & G C Das

JAPAN

Korean Ahn joins struggling S-Pulse

SOUTH KOREAN World Cup star Ahn Jung-hwan has found a new home at Shimizu S-Pulse following his bust-up with Italians Perugia.

The forward joined the J.League side on a one-year contract after a projected deal with Blackburn fell through.

Ahn fell foul of Perugia owner Luciano Gaucci in the summer after scoring Korea's winner against Italy in the last 16 of the World Cup finals.

The 26-year-old faces a difficult task at S-Pulse, who lost five of their first six games in the Second Stage. These included a 2-1 loss to Urawa Reds, who have been enjoying an unexpected run of success. They were the only unbeaten side after six rounds and lay second, a point behind Jubilo Iwata. After a poor First Stage, Reds are still technically in danger of relegation, but a place in the overall championship Final is beginning to look a real possibility.

They showed they mean business when securing victory at Jubilo, the First Stage champions.

Reds, coached by Dutchman Hans Ooft, have an impressive attack, with outstanding Brazilian strikers in Emerson and Tuto, plus Japan veteran Masahiro Fukuda, 1999 World Youth striker Yuichiro Nagai, and the scorer of Japan's first goal at the 2002 Asian Games, Tatsuya Tanaka.

Sanfrecce Hiroshima have signed Croatian forward Tomislav Erceg to help in their battle against relegation, while two Cruzeiro players have joined other troubled teams. Midfielder Ricardinho is now with Kashiwa Reysol, and forward Oseas at Vissel Kobe.

The Brazilians' arrival generated instant results, Reysol recording their first two League wins since April, and Vissel winning three out of four games.

Mike Plastow & Yumiko Nagae

New challenge...Ahn Jung-hwan

OCEANIA

Olympic still on song

Four tops...Ngata

AFTER two rounds of **AUSTRALIA'S** new National Soccer League campaign, the lead was shared by defending champions Sydney Olympic and last season's wooden spoon club, Auckland Kingz.

Olympic's 3-0 derby victory over Marconi suggests they will again be the side to beat. Japanese recruit Hiroyuki Ishida capped an impressive game with a spectacular goal.

However, veteran Kingz midfielder Harry Ngata stole the headlines by scoring all four goals in the New Zealanders' 4-1 success at Northern Spirit.

Caversham are back in **NEW ZEALAND'S** National League after 25 years having won the promotion-relegation series. Midfielder Frank Hagerty, a former Rangers apprentice, was the star of the show as the Dunedin team beat Waitakere City (3-2), Western Suburbs (3-0) and Glenfield Rovers (2-1).

Eddie Drollet's second-half winner gave Tupapa the season's first trophy in the **COOK ISLANDS** with a 2-1 defeat of Nikao in the Air New Zealand Tournament Final.

Ba retained the **FIJI** championship by winning 1-0 at Navua.

Unbeaten Lapeale made sure of the **SAMOAN** title by hammering bottom-of-the-table Vaivase-Tai 7-0 on the last day of the season.

Paul Moon

Pro-file Maxim Shatskikh

Uzbek proving the equal of Shevchenko at Kyiv Dynamo

NEW Uzbekistan coach Ravshan Haydarov is backing Kyiv Dynamo striker Maxim Shatskikh to provide the goals and leadership to take the former USSR republic to the 2006 World Cup finals.

"My predecessor [Vladimir Salkov] took the Uzbek team to the second round of the Asian qualifiers for Korea/Japan, and that is a significant base to build on," says Haydarov. "The next objective is to be in Germany for the 2006 finals. "The knowledge that I can count on a player of Shatskikh's great ability makes me confident. His experience of the Champions League with Kyiv Dynamo will be vital. He will help the younger players overcome the psychological barrier that separates club from international football."

Haydarov is right to pinpoint Shatskikh, a product of the Tashkent football academy, as his key man. Uzbekistan have good performers in the Russia-based trio of midfield general Mirdjalal Kassymov (Kryliya Sovetov), goalscoring midfielder Nikolai Shirshov (Rostselmash) and striker Jafar Irismetov (CSKA Moscow), not to mention boy wonder midfielder Ilyas Zeytulaev, who plays for the Juventus youth team. Yet in terms of talent and achievement, Shatskikh leaves them far behind.

Three years ago, critics in Ukraine were perplexed when Dynamo coach Valerii Lobanovskyi chose the unknown Shatskikh to fill the massive void in attack left by the sale of Andrii Shevchenko to Milan. They wondered how a young, raw striker from Russian Second Division side Baltika Kaliningrad could take over the 'Sheva' mantle.

However, the young Uzbek was an instant success. He had the pace of Dynamo great Oleg Blokhin, he could dribble, head, was physically strong and, most importantly, his finishing was so good that he won the 1999-00 Ukrainian League golden boot with 22 goals.

Then came the bad news. A series of niggling injuries and a broken arm sidelined him for much of 2000-01, and though back in the first team at the start of last season, he struggled to make an impression.

But 2002 was to be a much better year. Shatskikh's incisiveness returned with the spring and has stayed with him. His good form was underlined by the thunderbolt with which he scored the first goal in Dynamo's 2-0 win over Newcastle in this season's Champions League.

No one in Ukraine compares Shatskikh unfavourably with Shevchenko any more. Indeed, you are more likely to hear that it is the Uzbek who has the better technique.

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Kyiv Dynamo (Ukr)
Country Uzbekistan
Born August 30, 1978, in Kungrad
Previous clubs Chilinzar Tashkent, Sokol (Rus), Torpedo Volzhsky (Rus), Lada Tolliati (Rus), Gazovik-Gazprom (Rus), Baltika Kaliningrad (Rus)
International caps 19 (12 goals)
Honours Ukrainian League 2000, 2001; Ukrainian Cup 2000

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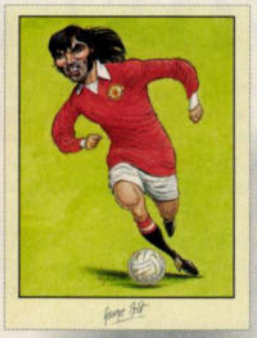

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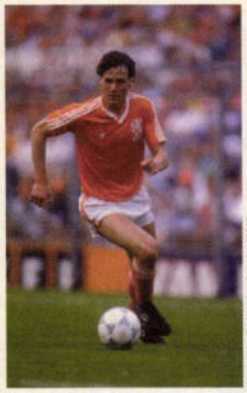

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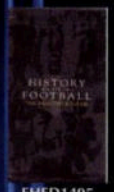
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WORLD SOCCER

Brian Glanville's LAST WORD

'He has arbitrarily decreed that any red card must lead to an immediate suspension ...a decision taken simply on the basis of a single incident in a Swiss League match'

Off you go...a red card will carry no right of appeal

Blatter, the great dictator

SEPP BLATTER'S FIFA dictatorship – one can hardly call it a mere presidency – now threatens the very future of the game. He has driven out his critics, surrounding himself with sycophants. He has cast out the committee that was supposed to be reporting on alleged malfeasance in the organisation. He has arbitrarily decreed that any red card given by a referee must, except in very special circumstances, lead to an immediate suspension. Talk about 51 bad new ideas a day! But now, alas, he is in a position to implement them.

I suppose that since red cards do not strictly come within the compass of the Laws of the Game, Blatter can get away with such high-handed arrogance. Yet hardly a relevant official voice has, seemingly, been raised about a decision taken simply on the basis of a single incident in a Swiss League match.

It might be argued that Blatter's ineffable predecessor, Joao Havelange – the Teflon president – was just as great an autocrat, exploiting the repugnantly supine and biddable nature of FIFA's delegates, who did not resist until the old man was almost at the end of his deplorable 24-year reign.

Yet though Havelange surely did great damage to the game, and not least the World Cup, with his self-serving initiatives, he never quite displayed the same monstrous behaviour as Blatter. Bad competitions such as the Confederations Cup and, Lord help us, the World Club Championship, are being revived. Minor members of FIFA are still to be sweetened by the shameless Goal projects and their like. Ticket scams by various officials at the World Cup are being ignored.

Those Western European countries that voted for Blatter in this summer's presidential election should be ashamed, though UEFA must still be impugned for backing an African nonentity, however agreeable, rather than coming up with a proper candidate of their own.

How could the likes of Franz Beckenbauer fall in behind Blatter – and does he regret it now? English FA chief executive Adam Crozier, to his credit, never did, so perhaps salvation might lie in a determined and decisive attempt by the FA to lead a crusade against Blatterism.

Something quite radical, a major secession from FIFA of leading European nations, is probably the only solution. We know, alas, that as things stand, the ridiculous situation of one country, one vote is the ideal situation for demagogues and dictators.

No wisdom in Millwall's Wise buy

LET me declare an interest. I have always liked Dennis Wise, whatever his periodic excesses. Yet I believe Millwall were as wrong to acquire him as Leicester City were right to jettison him, after he had double-fractured the cheekbone of team-mate Callum Davidson on a Scandinavian tour.

Millwall manager Mark McGhee's somewhat evasive explanation of why he thought it right to sign Wise was unconvincing. The truth is that it was an act of some desperation.

Seldom have I seen a team disgrace themselves and let their supporters down so badly as Millwall in their opening League game at the New Den against Rotherham. They simply laid down and died, losing by a humiliating 6-0. McGhee made it quite clear afterwards that this surrender was caused by the players' resentment that the club hadn't come across with the financial improvements promised at the end of last season. But what could Millwall do, after the collapse of the ITV Digital deal?

Crowds, already way below average at the Rotherham game thanks to Millwall's self-defeating policy of making it hard for non-registered fans to gain access, inevitably continued to be low.

A 3-0 home defeat by modest Walsall, three days before Wise was due to sign, suggested that things are still far from buoyant. Sad, when you think how close Millwall came to promotion last season.

Getting shirty...Wise shows off his new club's colours

Worthwhile journey...Bergkamp (right) was crucial away to PSV

Ballack and Bergkamp: men of influence

ONE MAN, we are everlastingly told, doesn't make a team – but what of Michael Ballack and Dennis Bergkamp?

Although Bayer did give Manchester United a game in Leverkusen, they seem to have been traumatised by the loss of their versatile midfield player Ballack to Bayern Munich. Their 6-2 defeat by Olympiakos seemed all the more incredible in retrospect when the Greek team went down 3-0 to Maccabi Haifa.

Wretched early results in the Bundesliga compounded the problem. Yet what other explanation could there be for the sudden steep decline of a team that had reached the Final of last season's Champions League? True, they also lost the talented left-sider Ze Roberto to Bayern, but they had plenty of excellent players left. What went wrong?

By contrast, Bergkamp has been the inspiration of Arsenal's majestic start to the season, and his decision to travel to this season's away Champions League games, such as the one against PSV, has surely been crucial to their European progress.

Watching the Gunners without Bergkamp, at Chelsea, one was reminded of how enormously important his creative talents, his outstanding skills, are to the team.

For generations Arsenal have relied on an inspirational inside-forward to keep them moving. In the 1930s it was Alex James, the remarkable little Scot with the baggy shorts, spraying his passes to either wing or down the middle for a crusading centre-forward. Post war, there were Jimmy Logie, another little Scot though more of a one-wing man, Jimmy Bloomfield, George Eastham, Liam Brady and Paul Davis. But no one of that stamp since then.

Bergkamp could probably be classified as an inside-forward of the pre-4-2-4 school, albeit an advanced one. He does the damage as what the Italians call a three-quarterist, operating on the whole just behind the main striker, though sometimes, choosing his moments cleverly, operating as an out-and-out striker. His technique is exquisite, his passing often devastating.

Racism: a sad fact of life in Europe

I WAS disgusted, though not wholly surprised, by the racist abuse of Fulham's Rufus Brevett by Hajduk Split supporters.

Yugoslavia remains somewhat off the beaten European track, black players are a rarity. Remember the disgraceful abuse received by Patrick Vieira of Arsenal from Sinisa Mihajlovic, Lazio's Yugoslav and friend of warlord Arkan? Yet it was surprising to know that when Arsenal played PSV in Eindhoven, Thierry Henry was abused and pelted by the crowd, given that Holland has always seemed to me one of the most civilised of European nations.

In Valencia, Emile Heskey and other black Liverpool players were abused; another surprise, though I know all about Real Madrid's neo-fascist ultras. And even at Newcastle, Chelsea's Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink was taunted.

UEFA has promised firm action, pointing out that it can force matches to be played behind closed doors. Sad if it comes to that, but clubs themselves should be made to detect and punish the offenders.

Pirlo gains his revenge at Milan

IF ANDREA PIRLO wanted revenge on Internazionale for the way they treated him, he is surely getting it now with their city rivals Milan. Also on course to become an international regular, Pirlo, still only 23, is another of those gifted young Italians who were given a confusing time before they fully emerged.

Born in Brescia, he made an impact in Serie B as a teenage midfielder, helping his hometown side gain promotion to Serie A in 1997, where he proceeded to play 29 matches.

When Inter acquired him the following season, all seemed set fair, and he played 18 games. Yet that was effectively that with the *nerazzurri*. The following autumn he went on loan to humbler Reggina, was recalled by Inter the next season, shipped out again to Brescia, only to be signed in the summer of 2001 – by Milan, where he is now flourishing.

There has been speculation that another talented young Italian, the 23-year-old centre-forward Massimo Maccarone, may 'do a Ravanelli' and not stay long with Middlesbrough, who bought him in the summer from Empoli for £8.5 million.

There are suggestions that Maccarone may now be acquired by one of the big Italian clubs, though none has wanted him so far. Another curious case, surely, of an unappreciated talent already flourishing on Teesside.

The forward has never figured in a Serie A game at any of his clubs, which have also included Milan, Modena, Prato and Varese, though he did come on impressively in Leeds when Italy beat England in last season's friendly.

Flourishing...but Pirlo was an unappreciated talent at Inter

November 1990

AJAX, billed as "Europe's poorest great club", were the cover stars 12 years ago. Yet for the first time in 25 years, they were not competing in European competition, having been banned after a supporter threw an iron bar at Austria Wien's goalkeeper in a European match the previous season.

Despite the problems, Simon Kuper wrote: "Ajax are going places. The players have everything but age." Playmaker Richard Witschge, then 21 and back in Amsterdam in 2002, featured on the cover, and other youngsters to look out for were Dennis Bergkamp, Frank De Boer and Bryan Roy. Bergkamp, also 21, had until now been "too shy to play the leading role that his talents warranted", but was still averaging a goal a game. Although half the first team were under 21, only Danny Blind and Frank De Boer were to feature in Ajax's Champions Cup triumph five years later.

Roger Milla was the other cover star, telling Keir Radnedge that he believed Cameroon had played the better football in their World Cup quarter-final defeat by England.

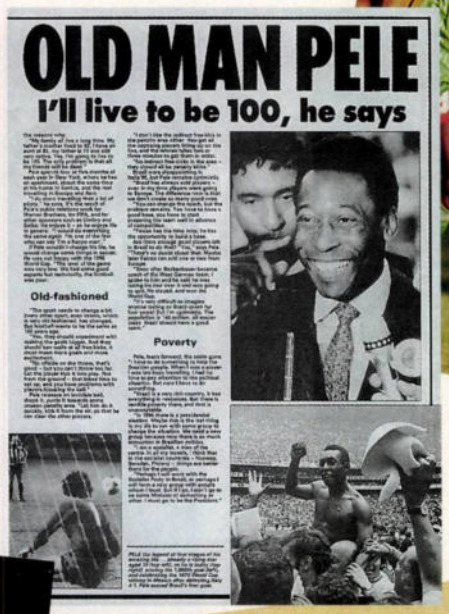
While speculation grew that Milla, 38, would go back on his decision to retire, a 20-year-old just beginning his career was being hailed by France correspondent Andre Duclos. Emmanuel Petit (pictured below) admitted: "My dream used to be to play in England, but now I realise that English players are technically too limited."

Elsewhere in Europe, there were profiles of two of the continent's newest national sides, Faroe Islands and San Marino. The Faroes players, fresh from their shock 1-0 defeat of Austria, were listed with dates of birth, caps and occupations (including five students, a carpenter, mechanic and fish salesman).

The new-look Brazil under Falcao were profiled by Brian Homewood, but the new coach appeared to be on a hiding to nothing. In his first coaching assignment, Falcao was able to pick only Brazil-based players for the *selecao* – a condition imposed by federation president Ricardo Teixeira.

Over in New York, Pele was preparing for his 50th birthday by telling Paul Gardner: "I'm going to live to be 100."

And he had no regrets. "I would do everything the same again. I'm one of the few who can say: 'I'm a happy man.' "



OLD MAN PELE

I'll live to be 100, he says

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AJAX – Europe's poorest great club

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